

Submitter: Steven Wilson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB993
Legislators:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 993. As a licensed private investigator in Oregon since 2003, I have seen the value of booking photos to investigators, particularly in identifying individuals in public defense cases. Not having access to booking photos requires defense investigators to spend additional time locating photos from other sources, which is a slower and less certain process.

Booking photos are accurate, easy to request, and inexpensive. Locating other photos can take hours if the person doesn't have much social media or has a common name. For those of us doing public defense, locating these photos is time paid for by taxpayers.

The original intention of making booking photos not public was to protect defendants from online abuse by members of the public, not to hamstring defense investigators working on behalf of the state's public defense system. Senate Bill 993 will fix that oversight.

Thank you.

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