

SEAN COYNE

DEFENSE INVESTIGATOR

March 3, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 993 – Restoring Licensed Investigator Access to Booking Photos

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 993, which seeks to restore licensed investigators' direct access to booking photos. As a licensed private investigator specializing in criminal defense investigations, I have firsthand experience with the unnecessary delays and costs caused by the current restrictions on booking photo access.

Booking photos are a critical tool in investigations. They help identify potential witnesses, confirm identities, and provide context for investigative interviews. Prior to the access restrictions, licensed investigators could obtain booking photos quickly, allowing us to conduct our work efficiently. Now, we are forced to submit costly and time-consuming public records requests, which burden both law enforcement agencies and the public defense system.

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The inability to access booking photos directly wastes state resources in several ways:

- **Increased Administrative Work for Law Enforcement:** Agencies must process individual records requests that were previously unnecessary, diverting staff from other duties.
- **Higher Costs for Public Defenders and the State:** Investigators working under indigent defense contracts often need booking photos to conduct effective investigations. The additional fees and processing time add to the already strained public defense budget.
- **Delays in Investigations and Case Resolutions:** Waiting for records requests to be processed can slow down investigations, delaying court proceedings and increasing overall case costs.

Personally, I have encountered significant delays and fees when requesting booking photos through public records channels. These barriers impede due process and create inefficiencies that are avoidable. Restoring direct access to booking photos for licensed investigators would not only improve the speed and accuracy of our work but also reduce unnecessary expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

I urge the committee to pass Senate Bill 993 to restore this essential investigative tool. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Sean Coyne

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