



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Tim Svenson, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: March 6, 2025

Re: SB 743 - Testimony Expressing Concerns
Recordings in Child Abuse Interviews

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Linthicum and members of the committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 743. The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association commend the Legislature's commitment to strengthening child abuse investigations. While law enforcement supports recording suspect interviews, we recognize that field conditions can be complex, and it is important to ensure the language and requirements account for these challenges to prevent unintended consequences.

As a best practice, and where possible, law enforcement officers record suspect interviews in child abuse investigations to ensure fair and accurate investigations, and prosecutors find these recordings valuable. Given the seriousness of these cases, thorough investigations are crucial, and recordings play a key role in helping system partners accurately assess statements and evidence.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Chair, other sponsors and stakeholders to address these concerns and develop a workable law that serves the interests of justice while preserving investigative integrity.

Thank you for your consideration.