

Submitter:

Cody James

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3926

House Bill 3926, forcing the Department of State Police (DSP) to create the SIGNAL program for messaging missing 18-30-year-olds, is a ridiculous waste of time and money. This half-baked idea squanders resources on a pointless gimmick while Oregon grapples with drug overdoses and prison overcrowding. It's a bureaucratic disaster that needs to be axed.

Let's start with the absurdity of its scope. Oregon logs 1,200 missing persons cases yearly (DSP, 2023), but nationally, 70% of adult cases resolve within 48 hours (NIJ, 2020). How many 18-30-year-olds are missing long-term, cut off from family, and itching to check a police hotline? A tiny fraction, if any. Yet, DSP—with a \$485 million biennial budget—must build a website, an automated phone line with text-to-voice tech, and a PIN-based system. Secure software could cost \$500,000+ upfront, plus ongoing expenses for maintenance and training across state police, sheriffs, and opt-in municipal departments. All for a program with zero proof it's needed.

Then there's the logistical stupidity. Cops finding a missing person have to hand out PINs and phone numbers, piling busywork onto real policing. DSP must store messages for 180 days, then track and delete them within a year—more hoops for a system that'll likely gather dust. If someone's missing on purpose, they're not dialing in. This isn't a lifeline; it's a pipe dream.

Meanwhile, Oregon's real crises get ignored. Measure 110's drug decriminalization drove an 83% jump in fentanyl deaths from 2020-2022, and its \$302 million in addiction services yielded a pathetic 1% help-seeking rate (CJC, 2023). House Bill 4002's weak fix adds 1,333 drug convictions yearly, pressuring prisons.