



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Undersheriff Brad O'Dell, Douglas County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: May 7, 2025

Re: HB 2668 A – Testimony in Support
Private Initiated Search and Rescue Requirements

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. For the record, my name is **Brad O'Dell**. I am the Undersheriff of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. I am here today on behalf of the **Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA)** to testify in **strong support of HB 2668 A**. This legislation establishes **clear guidelines for private search parties**, ensuring that families of missing persons receive **transparent information** and that **law enforcement is properly notified** of independent search efforts. These provisions are critical to **public safety, coordination, and accountability** in missing persons cases.

HB 2668 A introduces **key requirements** for private search parties, including:

- **Mandatory disclosures** to immediate family members, both **verbally and in writing**, stating that the private search party is **not acting as an agent of law enforcement** or a public search and rescue entity.
- Requiring search parties to inform families if they **intend to charge fees, solicit donations, or profit from search-related productions**.
- A requirement that **private search parties notify the local sheriff's office at least 72 hours before initiating a search**, providing **essential information** such as **their identity, qualifications, search timeframe, use of dogs, and any financial disclosures** made to the family.

These measures are necessary to **protect vulnerable families from misinformation or financial exploitation, enhance coordination between private search efforts and law enforcement, and promote effective, ethical search practices**. OSSA supports this legislation as a step toward ensuring **greater accountability and improved outcomes in missing persons cases**.

We urge your **full support of HB 2668 A** to enhance **public trust, safety, and coordination in Oregon's search and rescue efforts.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.