



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: **House Committee on Judiciary**

From: Sheriff Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 9, 2026

Re: **HB 4151 (Dash 1 and 2 Amendments) – Testimony in Support
Enhanced Penalties for Swatting Incidents**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Sheriff Michelle Duncan. I serve as the Sheriff of Linn County and appear before you today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) to express our strong support for HB 4151.

As a Sheriff who manages a 9-1-1 dispatch center, I know first-hand how swatting incidents create inherently high-risk situations that endanger students, educators, community members, and responding law enforcement officers. Beyond the immediate danger, these incidents impose significant emotional trauma on victims and responders and place substantial financial and operational burdens on local communities.

The dash-1 and dash-2 amendments appropriately narrow the bill's focus by applying enhanced felony penalties only to individuals who intentionally initiate a false emergency or "swatting" incident and who recklessly cause serious physical injury or death as a result. This targeted approach ensures accountability for the most dangerous conduct while preserving proportionality in Oregon's criminal justice system.

HB 4151, as amended, recognizes the real and lasting harm caused by intentional swatting and provides an appropriate legal framework to address the most severe consequences of these acts. OSSA urges the committee to support HB 4151.

Thank you for your time and consideration.