



**To: Members of the Joint Committee on the
First Special Session of 2020**

From: Sheriff Tim Svenson, 1st Vice-President
Oregon State Sheriffs Association

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: June 25, 2020

**Re: HB 4201, HB 4203, HB 4205, HB 4207, HB 4208 & SB 1604– Police
Accountability Measures from Oregon Police Chiefs and Sheriffs**

Good afternoon Chair Courtney, Chair Kotek and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, please accept this testimony on HB 4201, HB 4203, HB 4205, HB 4207, HB 4208 & SB 1604.

As Law Enforcement Leaders we want our organizations to reflect our communities' desires with policing that is fair, equitable and just. These measures will help to ensure that only individuals with the highest ethical, professional and moral standards will serve our communities as law enforcement officers.

Our associations have an established history of working in partnership with the legislature on behalf of all Oregonians. We want to provide relevant guidance, advice, experience and insight on the critical issue of police accountability.

We would like to speak specifically to the following police accountability measures:

HB 4201-1 - We are committed to working closely with the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform as established in the dash-1 amendment and support the bill with adoption of the dash 1 amendment.

HB. 4203-4 – Oregon Law enforcement has long determined Chokeholds as an unnecessary control hold. Most agencies have policy's prohibiting it use and they do not train on it. We support this measure with adoption of the dash 4 amendment.

HB 4205-4 – Most Oregon Law enforcement agencies have had policies in place that require law enforcement officers regardless of rank to intervene if they observe a criminal violation or use of force by another officer that is not justified. Law enforcement has advocated for adding additional reasons for intervening to include sexual harassment, discrimination and violation of credentialing minimum standards which this bill includes. The one item we would like to clarify is the reporting to a supervisor. We would suggest language that director reporting to a supervisor of the employing agency. We support HB 4205 with adoption of the dash 4 amendment.

HB 4207-6 – We support HB 4207 with adoption of the dash 6 amendment. We support the creation of an online database of suspensions and revocations and support increased access to personnel files by agencies so they can make better informed hiring decisions. We also appreciate the liability protection afforded to agencies that request and provide these personnel files.

HB 4208-2 – We support HB 4208 with adoption of the dash 2 amendment. The amendment limits the use of tear gas for crowd control to circumstances constituting a riot and establishes minimum notification requirements.

SB1604 – Law Enforcement Arbitration-We supported this bill in the past session and we strongly support this bill today without amendments.

While the speed at which these measures were crafted and this special session is moving quickly, there are pieces of these measures that may have unintended consequences. We would ask, that if unintended consequences are discovered, we be allowed to suggest adjustments to policy in future sessions. As I mentioned in my opening we are committed to policy that support fair equitable and just policing.

We would like to ask the committee to consider removing the emergency clause from these measures. While we agree on the urgency of implementing this public policy, it will take time for agencies to create policy based upon these measures and then create and deliver training on this policy to our Law Enforcement Professionals across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.