



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

From: Kevin Campbell

Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 10, 2016

Re: Support for SB 1510 with Dash 4 Amendments

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation. My name is Kevin Campbell and I am here on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to support the passage of SB 1510 with the Dash 4 Amendments.

The dash 4 amendments to SB 1510 are designed to address a Court of Appeals ruling on ORS 811.507 (Mobile Communication Devices) in the case of State v, Rabanales-Ramos that is resulting in numerous citations being dismissed in courts around the state. Based on the ruling, to issue a citation for a violation of using a mobile communication device, an officer must have probable cause to believe that a person operating a motor vehicle is talking on their phone or texting. The purpose of the mobile communication violation statute was intended to prohibit vehicle operators, with exceptions, from using their cell device while driving. This ruling focuses on talk and text but would allow drivers to play games like Angry Birds, read and reply to e-mails and surf the web.

The National Safety Council estimates about one in four motor vehicle crashes involve cell phone use at the time of the crash. While drivers can be distracted by many things while operating a motor vehicle, the use of a cell phone combines all three of the main types of distraction including:

- Visual: taking your eyes off the road;
- Manual: taking your hands off the wheel; and
- Cognitive: taking your mind off of driving.

The dash 4 amendment to SB 1510 addresses the ruling in State v, Rabanales-Ramos by Making the following changes to ORS 811.507:

330 Hood Street Northeast Salem Oregon 97301

- Changes the term “Mobile Communication Device” to “Mobile Electronic Device” to insure that use of a phone, iPad, computer, etc. are covered.
- Clarifies that “Using a mobile electronic device” includes but is not limited to text messaging, engaging in voice communication, playing music or games, getting directions, accessing the Internet and composing or reading electronic mail.

As the use of cell phones and other electronic devices continues to increase exponentially, the prevalence of traffic crashes that result in injury and death are increasing at an alarming rate. The work of police officers to enforce these laws is critically important both to create incentives for voluntary compliance and to identify dangerous driving behavior before injury or death occur.



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