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411 S.W. 2nd Avenue  
Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-548-2797  
[info@progpatty.org](mailto:info@progpatty.org)

## Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2018 Session of Oregon Legislature:

### HB 4056: Oppose

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party opposes this bill, which, according to its Staff Measure Summary:

Designates 10 percent of forfeiture proceeds for scholarship program for family members of public safety officers.

Modifies eligibility requirements for scholarship. Specifies length and amount of scholarship. Defines key terms, such as family member.

Allows disbursement of certain forfeiture proceeds for support of all specialty courts.

Under this bill, 10% of the proceeds of civil forfeitures would be allocated to the Oregon 529 College Savings Plans "for family members of public safety officers." Thus, this bill would give the law enforcement officers a direct financial incentive to seize property from criminal suspects.

Law enforcement personnel should not be given personal financial incentive to seize property. They can do their jobs without being offered such a conflict of interest. Creating that conflict of interest will impair the credibility of law enforcement agencies.

We suggest that the Legislature directly appropriate the same amount of funds to the Oregon 529 College Savings Plans as would be expected to be generated for that purpose of HB 4056. Doing so would cost the government nothing extra, because the 10% of civil forfeiture funds that HB 4056 directs to that purpose would instead fund other government functions--functions that do not place public safety officers into a conflict of interest.

### Oregon Progressive Party

**Daniel Meek**

authorized legal representative

[dan@meek.net](mailto:dan@meek.net)

503-293-9021



