



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings again from your Executive Director:

A couple items that have come up since we sent our newsletter this morning. First, we submitted a [column](#) regarding reform proposals which has now been placed in a number of local newspapers—we wanted to send as an FYI.

Second, HB 1499 had the first hearing this morning and I am [attaching](#) our statement.

Also, a reminder we have this short [video](#) that features our reform recommendations.

All of these are FYI-- have a safe weekend.

- Steve

Greetings from your Executive Director:

For those of you who have joined our legislative update webinars, you are well aware that there are significant bills out there that have massive impacts, many unintended, on law enforcement and the people we serve. Taken together, the proposals, if passed, would significantly affect public safety, again in some ways that may be the opposite of what the legislators intend. Our main messages are pretty simple:

- We support constructive [reforms](#) that support good policing, [respect victims](#), and improve public safety.
- Solutions focused on large cities do not fit every community.
- Reforms should help and not hurt the recruitment and retention of diverse and accountable peace officers.

[Here](#) is the link to register for our **Legislative Update** on Tuesday, February 16 beginning at 10:00 AM. Many of these bills are being amended and the webinar will provide an up-to-date status check on each bill and help you to communicate with your community, your legislators and your agency. We will provide a current “Top Ten” bills document at that time as well. **Thank you for your engagement and outreach on these critical issues!**

Here are some **excellent examples** of outreach and the communication we need, especially during the legislative session. The first is a [summary](#) of a Chamber meeting where concerns

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were raised and legislators were able to respond- it is worth reading. The [second](#) is a great example of “telling our story” by Moses Lake Chief Kevin Fuhr. Finally, here is a [Facebook](#) post from Kent P.D. that really connects to what our law enforcement is doing every day.

You may have seen **HB 1499 was introduced, which seeks to decriminalize possession of small amounts of all drugs**, and to shift the focus to a better treatment and substance use infrastructure. [Here](#) is a summary of the bill itself- while better treatment and alternatives to the criminal justice system are worthy goals, our main objection will be that building the system should be our collective focus, not decriminalization- in other words, we strongly support the bill if **the decriminalization portion were removed**. We will keep you apprised on this bill, including an update next Tuesday.

Washington State’s U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Attorney Moran and U.S. Attorney Hyslop, have submitted their resignations effective at the end of the month. I have attached the two letters from WASPC thanking [Mr. Moran](#) and [Mr. Hyslop](#) for their partnership with us and for their outstanding records of public service. We really appreciate the extra effort both took to build strong partnerships, and especially with our tribal agencies. We wish both the very best and look forward to the confirmation of our new U.S. Attorneys.

We received word last week that someone has been calling people from a 509 number in eastern Washington, and identified himself as from the “Sheriffs and Police Chiefs association”. After he went on for a while he apparently asked for donations, and then became pushy. Someone is out there trying to **leverage support for law enforcement with fraudulent calls**, so be aware and if you hear about it consider getting messages out to your community that we do not make phone calls like that, ever.

Stay Safe!

- Steve