



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Addressing Fairness in Juvenile Questioning

*Legislators with law enforcement experience focus on juvenile justice*

Salem – Representatives Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale) and Carla Piluso (D-Gresham) have three bills scheduled to be heard Wednesday, March 22 that speak to issues of fairness and equity in the police questioning of youths 18 and under.

Three bills ([HB 3242](#)-Juvenile Interrogations/Recordation; [HB 3244](#)-Juvenile Interrogations/ Use of Deceit Promises of Leniency; and [HB 2718](#)-Juvenile Waiver of Miranda Warnings) have been introduced in response to policy initiatives in law enforcement around the country.

HB 3242 deals with basic fairness by extending recording requirements in the questioning of suspects under 18 who are being investigated or questioned in relation to a situation that could lead to person felony charges.

“We need to ensure that juvenile offenders are treated with fairness and equity in our justice system,” Rep. Piluso says.

HB 3244 would limit the use of false promises and deceit in the course of questioning youths under 18 years of age. This is in direct response to a change in the questioning technique known as the Reid Technique. The Reid Technique [has been described](#) as being “familiar from any cop show: the claustrophobic room, the repeated accusations of guilt, the presentation of evidence — real or invented — and the slow build-up of pressure that makes admitting a crime seem like the easiest way out.” This technique has been identified as leading to many false confessions. Former Washington D.C. Homicide Detective, investigation consultant, and author Jim Trainum (who has appeared on [This American Life](#) and [Serial](#)) will be on hand in committee on March 22 to testify on the importance of the bill.

Lastly, HB 2718 prohibits juveniles from waiving their Miranda rights until after they consult with an attorney.

“I think we need to make sure that young people understand the gravity of their situation before they cede their constitutional rights,” Rep. Gorsek says.

The Judiciary Committee hearing takes place at 1pm on Wednesday, March 22, in Hearing Room 343.

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