



STATE SENATOR CHRIS GORSEK

Senate District 25
Oregon State Legislature

PRESS RELEASE

May 24, 2021

CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Votes to Protect Youth from Deceptive Interrogation Tactics

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 418, a bill that protects youth from the use of deceptive tactics by law enforcement during an investigation of a crime.

“Science, ethics and good law enforcement all agree, lying to kids during an investigation is a bad practice,” said Senator Gorsek, chief sponsor of Senate Bill 418 and a former police officer. “Investigators should be doing the work to get the facts, not trying to trick a kid into a confession.”

Studies have demonstrated repeatedly that juveniles have fundamental brain differences from adults, not only making them susceptible to police interrogation tactics, but also making it difficult for juveniles to properly understand their Miranda rights.¹ Juveniles are also two to three times more likely than adults to confess to criminal acts they did not commit.²

“We know the data and we have the research,” said Senator Gorsek. “Tactics that include lying to youth during an investigation is not in the interest of justice. It can ruin lives, it erodes trust in the legal system, it is painful for victims and does not improve public safety. It’s wrong and it’s a practice that needs to end.”

Senate Bill 418 saw support from medical professionals, justice advocates and law enforcement. The bill passed with bipartisan support and will now be taken up in the Oregon House.

###

1. Luna, Marco, "Juvenile False Confessions: Juvenile Psychology, Police Interrogation Tactics, and Prosecutorial Discretion." *Nevada Law Journal*, Vol. 18: Iss. 1, Article 10, 292 (2017).

2. Crane, Nirider, Drizin, *The Truth About False Juvenile Confessions, American Bar Association Insights on Law and Society* 16.2 (2016).