

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

March 6, 2019



The Honorable Lisa Wellman  
Washington State Senator  
218 John A. Cherberg Building  
PO Box 40441  
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Senate Bill 5497 (Keep Washington Working Act)

Dear Senator Wellman:

On behalf of the members of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), we want to thank you for working so well with us to find agreement on your Senate Bill 5497, commonly known as the Keep Washington Working Act.

We are pleased to inform you that WASPC has no objection to the current version of your bill: 2SSB 5497 (S-2320.3).

Our membership feels strongly that every person in all communities across our state should feel safe contacting law enforcement, particularly those who have been a victim of crime. Our membership also feels strongly that law enforcement should retain all authority to enforce criminal laws and cooperate with our law enforcement partners on criminal investigations. It was with these principles that we negotiated with you and other proponents of your bill.

As you know, our discussions on this proposal have lasted more than a year. These discussions were often intense, and included many complex legal issues. We are deeply thankful that, under your leadership, our negotiations always stayed to the issues at hand, that all parties acted in good faith, and we all worked diligently to find areas of agreement regarding a topic that easily sparks high emotions.

Thank you for working with us to find agreement on your bill.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Strachan  
Executive Director

James McMahan  
Policy Director

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