



**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO *BEND BULLETIN* ARTICLE,
“THIRD OSP LAB UNDER INVESTIGATION”**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND, Ore. – Oregon Innocence Project, a program of Oregon Justice Resource Center, is deeply troubled to hear reports of further problems at Oregon’s state crime labs. An article published today by the *Bend Bulletin* describes how Kristopher Kyes, a former analyst at the Clackamas crime lab, was underreporting results from urine tests by failing to find and report on drugs or other substances.

“This is at least the fourth revelation in just the last year of failures on the part of Oregon State Police forensic labs to ensure the integrity of their testing processes,” says Steve Wax, Legal Director, Oregon Innocence Project. “It is abundantly clear that the comprehensive independent review of all of Oregon’s state crime labs’ policies and procedures that we have repeatedly called for is long overdue.”

Oregon Innocence Project believes the best way to restore confidence in the forensic labs’ work would be to create an oversight commission with the power to ensure policies and procedures are rooted in the best available scientific evidence. The commission would also investigate labs where complaints of malpractice occur. The model has already been proven in Texas.

“Problems at Oregon State Police’s labs have now been shown to affect multiple labs and multiple forensic disciplines,” says Wax. “The widespread nature of these problems is likely to further undermine public trust in the reliability of Oregon’s state-run labs. Without independent oversight of the crime labs, it is hard to see how the situation will improve.”

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Note to editors: Oregon Innocence Project is a program of Oregon Justice Resource Center, a Portland-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. OIP is the only project of its kind in Oregon whose sole mission is to actively track inmates' claims of innocence, investigate those claims, test DNA and other scientific evidence, and litigate where appropriate.