



To: Members of the Senate Healthcare Committee

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: January 28th, 2019

Re: Support for SB 140 and SB 141
ED Boarding Prevention and Suicide Prevention Caring Contacts & Access Assessment

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support for SB 140 and SB 140 on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police.

With inadequate mental health treatment resources and services/facilities necessary to address the growing number of Oregonians who are experiencing behavioral health crisis, our hospitals and jails are left to address the gap with options that don't serve the best interests these individuals. We understand that Oregon's behavioral health challenge can only be addressed if the wide range of stakeholders abandon traditional silos and to work in partnership with one another and with the Oregon Legislature. It is in this spirit that we offer our support for SB 140 and SB 141. We believe these bills are designed with the best interest of individuals who are experiencing behavioral health issues in mind. Hospital emergency departments and jails are not an appropriate or effective setting for these individuals and these measures identify some important steps that move us in the right direction. From a law enforcement perspective, and specifically to SB 141, response to suicide is one of the most tragic calls that our officers respond to. Efforts to establish a system to provide "caring contact" follow-up appointments for Oregonians experiencing a behavioral health crisis will result in positive outcomes and stabilization. Here are some of the key provisions of the legislation:

SB 140 ED boarding prevention

- Sometimes patients wait for extended hours, days and weeks waiting an appropriate placement and therefore board in an emergency department.
- We support providing funding to hospitals for short-term community pilot programs to reduce and ultimately prevent emergency department boarding.
- We support the creation of an EB boarding prevention taskforce to provide long-term solutions.

SB 141 Suicide Prevention Caring Contacts & Access Assessment

- We support providing transitional funding to hospitals to provide or contract to provide caring contacts to patients who have been released from an emergency department that presented with suicidal ideation or attempted suicide.
- Currently, there are not enough available resources within a community to have follow-up appointments for Oregonians experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
- We support OHA studying the existing barriers to follow-up appointments and provide recommendations to the legislature to ensure we continue to understand the needs in our community.

Thank you.