



# Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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February 4, 2020

TO: Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Tim Colahan, Executive Director, Oregon District Attorneys Association

RE: SB 1545

## Oregon District Attorneys Support SB 1545

Senate Bill 1545 will tie Oregon State Police Patrol Trooper staffing to Oregon's population gradually over the next 10 years. The current ratio of Patrol Troopers to Oregonians is 8 per 100,000 citizens, the second lowest in the nation. This 10-year plan will increase that ratio to 15 per 100,000 citizens by 2030.

Since 1980, Oregon has seen a steady decline in the number of Patrol Troopers enforcing Oregon's highways. During this time, the number of drivers has been rapidly increasing, along with an increase in the number of fatal and serious injury crashes. Currently, no OSP Office is patrolling Oregon's highways 24/7.

Currently, OSP has 454 sworn Patrol Division positions serving a state population of over 4 million. In 1969, OSP had 412 sworn Patrol Division positions with a state population of just over 2 million. Today, we virtually have the same number of Patrol Troopers serving double the population at a time when the demand for Patrol Troopers continues to increase as our population grows and the number of vehicle miles travelled increases.

An increase in Patrol Troopers will benefit Oregon and result in more community engagement and education, more proactive contacts, and an increased visibility on Oregon's highways, resulting in a reduction of speeders, aggressive drivers, and impaired and distracted drivers.

Increasing OSP staffing levels at Patrol Offices is a necessity for the safety of the citizens of Oregon. Please protect public safety – **vote yes on SB 1545**.