



June 22, 2021

## **OREGON'S STATE TROOPERS APPLAUD BUDGET – ASK FOR MORE ACTION TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY**

In each major event we face as Oregonians, you'll find State Troopers there to help: **we've been at the demonstrations in Portland, we were there for floods in our communities and for the wildfires that have devastated so many in Oregon — and we've been here throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.** Unfortunately, the truth is, there are not enough of us.

Under the best of circumstances, Oregon is below the national average when it comes to Patrol Trooper coverage — but when faced with extreme hardships like we experienced in 2020, the consequences of this shortage are even more devastating.

The Oregon State Police Officers' Association thanks the Oregon Legislature for allocating the funds necessary for maintaining crucial public safety services for the next biennium, **and we also request that you take additional steps this legislative session to increase our state's investment in Oregon State Police.** This can be accomplished by passing Senate Bill 211, which ensures Oregon State Police staffing levels catch up with Oregon's population growth gradually over the next nine years.

The demand for Troopers continues to increase due to population growth and the corresponding increase in overall vehicle miles traveled on our highways. If passed, **Senate Bill 211 will incrementally increase staffing levels beginning in 2023.** This 10-year-plan will increase the ratio of Oregon State Troopers to 15 per 100,000 by 2030.

It is undeniable that State Police staffing levels at Patrol offices are a dire concern, not only for the citizens we serve, but for Trooper safety. **But, for too many decades, State Police service has been under-prioritized and overlooked.** The 2021 Legislative Session is the perfect opportunity to change that course.

**We request that you increase our state's investment in Oregon State Police for next biennium — and that you pass Senate Bill 211 to make clear that we must restore 24/7 trooper coverage on our highways.**