



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING
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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and
Ballot Measure 10 Implementation**

From: Sheriff Shane Nelson, 1st Vice President
Oregon State Sheriffs Association
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Chief Matt Workman, 1st Vice President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
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Date: January 27, 2021

Re: Support for SB 211
Directs OSP to maintain a staffing level of at least 15 patrol troopers per 100,000 residents of this state, beginning January 1, 2030

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the time and opportunity to testify in support of SB 211 on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association. Our memberships believe it is time to build a plan for adequately staffing the Oregon State Police through the 10-year plan envisioned in the bill. During 2020, OSP resources were stretched to the breaking point, leaving troopers exhausted and illustrating the need to bolster the OSP budget to authorize a meaningful increase in trooper strength.

In Oregon, we have 66 police agencies with less than 10 sworn officers where the police chief often pulls shifts and responds to calls for service in addition to managing the daunting challenge of running a department. For these agencies, OSP is a critical part of accomplishing the law enforcement mission. In small and rural communities around the state, OSP serves as a partner with local agencies to accomplish the public safety mission. This includes traffic safety, responding to calls for service and providing critical back-up for local police officers.

The importance of the Oregon State Police isn't limited to our smallest departments. 2020 provided a number of examples of what OSP can and does bring in terms of essential expertise, resources and personnel. OSP played a vital role during the extended period of violent civil disturbances that occurred in Portland and Salem. They played an instrumental role in partnership with local police

agencies to ensure that community members threatened by wildfire were safely evacuated. They regularly bring specially trained personnel to assist with complex policing challenges wherever they take place around the state. These functions that all Oregon agencies depend on include the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), Mobile Response Teams (MRT) and the critical work of the OSP detective division.

Our police chiefs and Sheriffs in Oregon consider the Oregon State Police an essential and critical part of our public safety system in Oregon. They are the backbone that connects us and the partner that allows us to create safe highways, interstates and communities. Adopting the 10-year plan envisioned in SB 211 is a top priority of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. It is a public safety issue, it is a traffic safety issue and it is an officer-safety issue. We hope you will join us in supporting SB 211.

Thank you.