



To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Sheriff Tim Svenson, President
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: April 1, 2021

Re: Testimony in support of HB 3229

Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 3229 which establishes an advisory council that will make recommendations on jail health care standards and the funding necessary to implement these recommendations.

We would like to begin our comments by thanking representative Marsh for her leadership and engagement of OSSA in the crafting of this measure. OSSA appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback and recommendations designed to assist with the drafting of the final proposal.

OSSA has been supportive of any legislative effort to increase medical resources and programs for AIC's in Jail custody. Local public safety resources are stretched and cannot provide more in terms of AIC healthcare than what is statutorily required. In previous legislative sessions, OSSA has brought the issue of Jail health care and identified the costs/difficulties associated with providing medical services for this population. OSSA supported the extension of commercial health insurance and Medicaid benefits for adults in custody (AIC) in our jails throughout the state. With the Legislature's help we have been successful in extending coverage for adults in custody who have commercial insurance but not for AIC's who are otherwise Medicaid eligible. OSSA understands that the extension of Medicaid benefits to AIC's in the custody of jails will require a federal stipulation that must be negotiated as a part of our Medicaid waiver.

OSSA is supportive of HB 3229 as it establishes an advisory council that will focus on jail health care, jail health care standards and any funding necessary to implement the recommendations of the council. For the reasons mentioned above, OSSA believes strongly that funding must accompany any additional requirements placed on jails as a result of the work of the council and any subsequent legislation that is adopted. The issues surrounding health care for AIC's are important to Sheriffs and any assistance the legislature can provide for this purpose is appreciated.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you have.