



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

From: Yamhill County Tim Svenson, President
Oregon State Sheriff's Association
SvensonT@co.yamhill.or.us

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
OACP-President@policechief.org

Date: April 26th, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of the Oregon State Police budget – HB 5028

Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sollman and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for an opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5028, the Oregon State Police (OSP) Budget.

OSSA and OACP would like to first recognize Superintendent Davie for her continued leadership and direction over the Oregon State Police this past year. As you know it has been a challenging year for public safety which has faced unprecedented issues including the COVID-19 pandemic, protests, wildfires and an ice storm. OSP has been a terrific Law Enforcement partner statewide providing support to local Law Enforcement agencies throughout this challenging time.

OSSA and OACP are testifying today in full support of HB 5028 which will provide current service level funding for OSP. OSP provides an array of system critical public safety services statewide that are utilized by every law enforcement agency in the State. As you know, we depend heavily on Oregon State Police Troopers to patrol our state highways and to provide critical back up and assistance to police officers and deputy sheriffs. OSP provides resources and services that law enforcement depends on throughout the state including forensic analysis services, criminal investigative resources and fish and game enforcement. In addition, OSP has oversight over the Medical Examiner's Office, the Oregon State Fire Marshall's Office and maintains Oregon's Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS).

We are hopeful that this committee will consider investing additional resources beyond the current service level budget to increase patrol staffing and for a new unit to address the mental

health, resilience and wellness of troopers who are performing dangerous and taxing work in a difficult environment.

Law Enforcement agencies across the state, regardless of size, depend on OSP daily. While Oregon shares the unfortunate distinction of having the lowest number of law enforcement officers per citizen ratio in the nation, Oregon law enforcement depends heavily on collaboration and partnership to keep our communities and state safe. OSP is a committed and important partner for public safety statewide through the services and support they provide to local law enforcement agencies.

In closing, we ask for the committee's full support of HB 5028 and funding for OSP which provides public safety services to all Oregonians. Thank you for this opportunity to provide Testimony and we are happy to answer any questions the committee might have.