



MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING  
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**DATE:** April 26, 2021

**TO:** Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair  
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

**FROM:** Cate Duke, MADD Oregon

**SUBJECT:** HB 5028

Thank you Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair Sollman, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to talk about public safety today. My name is Cate Duke, I live in Springfield, OR and I'm here today to testify on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

At MADD, we know that State Troopers are key to keeping Oregon roadways safe. We support law enforcement, because we know that law enforcement support is one of the best ways to prevent drunk driving.

It has been proven time and again: more State Troopers patrolling our roadways result in less impaired and distracted drivers. Studies show that the perceived likelihood of getting caught is one of the most successful methods for keeping impaired drivers off our roads.

Yet, impaired driving is still the leading cause of fatal and serious injury crashes on Oregon's roadways – and about half of those crashes occur on State highways. If we want to prevent drunk driving and decrease traffic fatalities in Oregon, we need more well-publicized law enforcement officers on our highways.

We need to act now: in the last year alone, traffic fatalities in our state increased by about 25%. Impaired driving crashes and fatalities are on the rise. While alcohol only fatalities dropped significantly from 2015-2019, drugged driving fatalities rose from 56 fatalities in 2015 to 125 in 2019. Poly substance (alcohol and drugs) fatalities rose from 32 in 2015 to 108 in 2019.

Investing more resources in our State Troopers will save money by preventing traffic crashes – and it will save lives. I encounter heartbreaking stories every day of families who have lost a loved one to drunk driving. Here is just one heartbreaking example: [Man found guilty of DUII crash that killed 3 teens in Salem | KATU](#)

Oregon families are desperate for ways to keep their loved ones safe, and there is one simple solution: increasing our investment in Oregon State Police. There are hundreds of miles of highways without any OSP coverage due to inadequate staffing, and the 2021 Legislative Session is the perfect opportunity to change that course. The more State Troopers on our highways, the more lives we can save.

MADD strongly urges you to 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your commitment to improving our state's investment in State Troopers.

Sincerely,

Cate Duke  
MADD Oregon