



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Association of Oregon Counties  
Public Safety Steering Committee  
Co-Chair, Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County  
[gordon.jeremy@co.polk.or.us](mailto:gordon.jeremy@co.polk.or.us)  
Co-Chair, Commissioner Dave Henslee, Klamath County  
[dhenslee@klamathcounty.org](mailto:dhenslee@klamathcounty.org)

RE: Letter in Support of *HB 2054*

Dear Public Safety Committee:

As you are aware, counties are facing unprecedented challenges in their ability to staff critical public safety positions with qualified professionals. Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry has struggled to recruit individuals for key positions within his department, which affects safety and legal processes.

We support HB 2054, adding District Attorneys and Deputy District Attorneys into the Police/Fire PERS designation. DAs and DDAs work alongside law enforcement to respond, investigate, prosecute, and provide justice for individuals involved in serious crimes. The stress that exists for our men and women in law enforcement also exists in our DA divisions. These jobs are just as difficult and traumatic, and many are leaving the profession for less-stressful, better-paying jobs.

Adding DAs and DDAs to the Police-Fire PERS category could go a long way in aiding retention efforts and acknowledging the importance of these critical positions. Please join us in supporting HB 2054 and let's continue to honor the important roles that our District Attorneys and Deputy District Attorneys serve in our counties.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Berschauer  
Chair

Kit Johnston  
Vice-Chair

Mary Starrett  
Commissioner

Cc: Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry [berryb@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:berryb@co.yamhill.or.us); Amanda Dalton  
[Amanda@DaltonAdvocacy.com](mailto:Amanda@DaltonAdvocacy.com)