



KLAMATH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Chris Kaber

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To: Ways and Means Public Safety Committee

From: Sheriff Chris Kaber – Klamath County

Date: March 2, 2023

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 5514

Dear Public Safety Sub-Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 5514 and advocating for funding the budget of the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ) in the current legislative session.

The ODOJ is a valuable partner in the broad spectrum of law enforcement agencies within Oregon. They have been able to provide valuable service at the state level and to local jurisdictions as well. Twice in the past "6" years the ODOJ has provided Klamath County with a district attorney in the absence of an elected official in that position. Each time those individuals have assisted in the prosecution of offenders and provided services to victims of crime in an exemplary manner. Currently DOJ Prosecutor John Casalino is filling the position of Klamath County District Attorney and has taken on the responsibility of repairing a depleted prosecutors office. ODOJ has also provided additional attorneys to help Klamath County through a lean period. Without their assistance crime victims would have little chance of receiving justice in our community.

Other areas where ODOJ has been helpful to the overall administration of justice has been in their investigation of serious incidents such as officer involved shooting investigations, public official investigations, and their involvement in Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). This last category is of great and growing concern to local agencies such as ours and their assistance is invaluable. In this area it is my hope that their budget will increase so that ODOJ can hire and train ICAC investigators at the ratio other states have; in my estimation the ODOJ-ICAC unit should be increased ten-fold.

I join the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, the Klamath County Board of Commissioners, and all other entities that provided written or public testimony in support SB 5514.

Thank you for providing the opportunity the provide written testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CK", is written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Chris Kaber
Klamath County Sheriff's Office