



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: January 24, 2023

Re: HB 2309-Testimony in Support -

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2309.

HB 2309 would require law enforcement to obtain a blood or buccal sample for any person who is arrested for a person crime, sex crime or burglary in the first degree. The measure provides important civil liability protections for the person who obtains the sample and provides exemptions to the collection requirement in cases where a sample was already taken previously or when taking the sample would create a health risk to the arrested person.

We believe the mandatory collection of blood or buccal samples is important for a number of reasons including:

Solving crimes: DNA evidence can be a powerful tool in solving crimes, and taking DNA samples from arrestees can help law enforcement identify suspects in cases where they might not have any other leads.

Exonerating the innocent: DNA evidence can also be used to exonerate people who have been wrongly accused of crimes.

Deterrence: The knowledge that DNA samples will be taken upon arrest for serious crimes may deter some people from committing those crimes in the first place, as they will know that they are more likely to be caught and identified.

Database expansion: The DNA samples taken from arrestees can be added to state and national DNA databases, which can help law enforcement solve crimes not only in the jurisdiction where the arrest was made, but also in other jurisdictions across the country.

Cost savings: By quickly identifying suspects using DNA evidence, law enforcement can save time and money that might otherwise be spent on lengthy investigations and trials.

OSSA and OACP supports HB2309. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.