



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Chief Chris Skinner, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Sheriff Shane Nelson, Immediate Past President
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 23rd, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 5530

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testify today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association in support of the Oregon State Police budget and to encourage increased funding beyond the Governor's Recommended Budget.

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association enjoy a strong partnership with the Oregon State Police (OSP) that benefits citizens and communities throughout the State of Oregon. We share a commitment to policing and public safety that prioritizes service, excellence, integrity and justice. The Oregon State Police is critical cornerstone to our public safety system as a whole and to our ability to the provide the police services necessary ensure safe communities and safety for our officers. Over the past few days, you have had an opportunity to hear about the range of programs and services that our police agencies and Sheriff's offices depend on. They include the Criminal Investigations Division, Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), Firearms Instant Check System (FICS), Forensics Services Division and Patrol Services Division to name a few. When these services and programs are not funded adequately, the justice that Oregonians expect is compromised and our ability to effectively police at the local level is not possible.

In Oregon, it is no surprise that we are experiencing a workforce shortage that many sectors of the economy are also experiencing. Our workforce crisis is more acute because we begin with the unfortunate distinction of being ranked 50th in the number of sworn officers per thousand in the nation. We also have over 60 police agencies in Oregon with less than 10 sworn officers where the police chief often pulls shifts and responds to calls for service. in addition to managing the daunting challenge of running their departments. Considering these realities, OSP is critical to ensuring the duties and mission of law enforcement in Oregon is fulfilled, and we could not do what we do to provide public safety statewide without the partnership and daily collaboration with OSP.

In the Governor's recommended budget, OSP's current service level was effectively reduced by 22 million dollars, which equates a reduction of 64 troopers. Additionally, the current service level doesn't take into account Policy Option Package requests that represent important funding needs necessary for OSP to meet increasing demands.

We urge the committee to restore funding to maintain OSP's current service level budget and to appropriate additional funds necessary to ensure that OSP can meet increasing demands into the future. We believe it is critical to maintain and increase funding for sworn troopers. It is equally important to adequately fund the support functions of the agency and to fund current programs that OSP is responsible for. Those functions act as a force multiplier for OSP's sworn and non-sworn staff as well as partner agencies who rely heavily on their services.

We urge the committee to restore the \$22 million reduced in the Governor's Recommended Budget to ensure the agency can continue to effectively operate and provide system critical programs and services statewide and additional appropriations necessary to meet increasing demands.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to testify today.