



MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOE KAST, SHERIFF

The Honorable Ed Diehl
State Representative, House District 17
900 Court St. NE, H-378
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill (HB) 2405 (A-Engrossed)

Date: March 27, 2023

Representative Diehl,

As you are aware, HB 2405 requires a court dismissing charges due to the defendant lacking fitness to proceed to also order the defendant back to the "home" jurisdiction in which charges were initiated. Codifying this bill in statute compliments the current direction from the circuit court and within the criminal justice system as a whole.

Recently, there has been a media report suggesting the Marion County Sheriff's Office is refusing to transport patients from the Oregon State Hospital (OSH), resulting in new filings and potential federal court action. Although by policy we do not discuss details of pending litigation, suffice it to say we are aware of the allegations leveled against the Marion County Sheriff's Office and will vigorously respond to and defend these claims in court.

I wish to reiterate our support for HB 2405 and convey the Marion County Sheriff's Office will continue to transport OSH patients as required by law and ordered by the court. Every year, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Oregon Transport Association (OTA), transports approximately 6, 200 Adults In Custody (AIC), which includes 120 OSH transports by way of court orders. As you can imagine, this level of service requires a significant degree of coordination with the state courts, county jails, and other collaborative partners, but it is a responsibility we will continue to provide in service to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. As always, I am happy to answer any questions or deliver clarification to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Wood".

Jeff Wood, Undersheriff
Marion County Sheriff's Office
jwood@co.marion.or.us
Phone: (503)588-6824