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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Sheriff Matt Phillips, Clatsop County
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: February 12th, 2025

Re: **HB 2465 – Testimony in Support
Parole and Probation Officer Tools and Legal Protections**

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is **Matt Phillips**. I am the Sheriff of Clatsop County, and I am testifying today on behalf of the **Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP)** to voice our support of **HB 2465**, which appropriately includes **parole and probation officers** under ORS 162.135 and ORS 807.115. These dedicated professionals are an essential part of Oregon's public safety system, working daily to **supervise offenders, enforce conditions of release, and prevent recidivism**. They often engage with individuals who pose a risk to themselves and others, navigating complex and potentially volatile situations in the course of their duties. Despite these responsibilities, parole and probation officers **lack the same legal protections** as other law enforcement personnel, leaving them more vulnerable to interference and obstruction in their mission to uphold public safety.

By expanding the definition within **ORS 162.135 and ORS 807.115**, HB 2465 ensures that **obstructing, or interfering or escaping from a parole and probation officer** carries the same consequences as it does for other law enforcement officers. This legislation not only **recognizes their vital role** but also reinforces their authority in maintaining offender accountability. The expanded definition of **ORS 807.115** allows DMV to share photos with parole and probation officers, allowing the same investigative assistance already provided to other law enforcement personnel. These changes will **enhance their safety, support their work, and ultimately strengthen public safety** across Oregon. I urge your support for this important bill. Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.