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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

From: Sheriff Travis Johnson, Malheur County
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: February 12th, 2025

**Re: SB 782 – Testimony in Support
Increased Deflection Program Funding for Small/Rural Counties**

Chair Prozanski, Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Travis Johnson. I am the Malheur County Sheriff and I am here today on behalf of the **Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA)** and the **Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP)** in strong support of SB 782, which ensures a minimum of **\$500,000 in funding for rural, small counties** to establish and sustain deflection programs under **HB 4002**.

Rural communities are eager to implement these programs to **address substance use, reduce recidivism, and connect individuals to treatment rather than incarceration**. However, the original funding cap of **\$150,000 has proven insufficient** to cover the costs of launching and maintaining these vital initiatives. Increasing the minimum allocation to **\$500,000** will ensure rural counties have the necessary resources to **successfully build and sustain these programs**, ultimately **improving public safety and community health**.

Malheur County estimates a cost of **\$370,000** to maintain our deflection program at a minimal level throughout the 2025-2027 biennium, relying on support from our mental health provider and local law enforcement agencies. With funding at the **\$500,000** level, rural, small-county programs can develop and sustain these critical initiatives at a more effective and impactful level.

We urge your **full support of SB 782** to provide rural communities with the tools they need to make a lasting impact. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.