



**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: Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee**

**From:** Kevin Campbell  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Date:** February 18, 2025

**Re: SB 5513 - Testimony**  
**Support for District Attorney's Budget**

**Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the committee,**

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, we submit this testimony in strong support of SB 5513, the budget for Oregon's District Attorneys. District Attorneys are essential partners in ensuring the public safety that Oregonians expect and deserve. Their role extends far beyond the prosecution of criminal cases, encompassing critical responsibilities that impact the well-being of our communities.

The proposed budget includes:

- **\$11,250,384** for salaries of Oregon's 36 District Attorneys.
- **\$5,303,393** for benefits.
- **\$3,042,811** for costs allocated to government services.
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District Attorneys' salaries are set by statute, with salaries of **\$148,932 or \$175,296** depending on the size of the county they serve. As law enforcement agencies, we recognize that the work of District Attorneys extends far beyond their traditional roles in the courtroom including:

- **Oversight of the Medical Examiner's programs**, ensuring accurate and professional investigations into deaths.
- **Managing civil commitments**, safeguarding public safety while balancing the rights of individuals facing mental health crises.
- **Administering child support enforcement programs**, with 17 District Attorney offices directly managing these services to protect Oregon's children and families.

The reduction scenario under consideration—a 10% cut—would require eliminating District Attorney salaries for an entire month each year. Such drastic action would significantly destabilize the criminal justice system, forcing experienced prosecutors out of

public service and diminishing the capacity of DA offices statewide. The consequences would be immediate and severe, delaying justice for victims, hampering efforts to hold offenders accountable, and eroding public confidence in the system. Public safety would suffer across Oregon.

We urge your full support for SB 5513 to ensure that Oregon's District Attorneys remain equipped to fulfill their diverse and essential roles. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and strong, well-supported DA offices are integral to our ability to protect and serve our communities effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.