



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
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PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Sheriff Lane Magill, Wasco County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Chief Mike Krantz, City of Bend
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: February 27, 2025

Re: HB 5012 - Testimony in Support
Oregon Justice Department (OJD) Budget

Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, we want to express strong support for the Oregon Judicial Department's (OJD) budget request, particularly Policy Option Package (POP) 101 – Courthouse Safety and POP 117 – Behavioral Health for Increased Aid/Assist Caseloads. OJD provides essential services to communities statewide, ensuring accountability for individuals involved in the justice system, supporting courthouse security, and maintaining judicial oversight.

Support for POP 101 – Courthouse Safety

Oregon courthouses play a vital role in upholding justice, yet many lack adequate security measures. Currently, only 19 out of 36 circuit courts have screening stations to help protect jurors, witnesses, litigants, staff, judges, and others who enter the courthouse. Between January and September 2024, more than 450 security incidents were reported statewide, including two assaults, four violent acts, 83 instances of disruptive conduct, one escape, 49 medical incidents, and 49 threats of violence.

The Chief Justice's minimum-security standards (CJO 17-072) require screening stations in all courthouses to reduce the risk of physical harm. Screening stations are the primary safety tool recommended for courthouses and have proven highly effective in preventing individuals from bringing weapons into court facilities. OJD is requesting funds to launch a pilot program supporting courthouse screening in eight counties: Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Linn, and Polk. This program would phase in most courts beginning in January 2026, with Clatsop and Linn scheduled to start in January 2027.

The requested funding will cover screening equipment and staff training to attain unarmed private security certification from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. These measures are critical to ensuring a safe environment for all who enter Oregon courthouses seeking justice.

Support for POP 117 – Behavioral Health for Increased Aid/Assist Caseloads

Oregon’s behavioral health crisis has significantly increased the workload of our courts. The judiciary is taking on additional responsibilities in response to the growing number of individuals requiring aid and assist services. To effectively manage these cases, funding is needed for analyst positions to ensure court forms and business processes comply with legal requirements. These positions will also equip courts with the necessary tools to efficiently process cases and provide essential training for judges and court staff to meet legal obligations and community expectations.

By investing in resources to support the Aid/Assist population, we can ensure individuals receive timely and appropriate judicial intervention. This funding will go a long way in streamlining case management and addressing the needs of those requiring behavioral health support within the justice system.

Conclusion

OJD’s budget request is essential to maintaining a safe and functional judicial system in Oregon. Funding for courthouse security under POP 101 will create safer environments for all court participants, while the resources allocated in POP 117 will provide critical support for addressing the behavioral health crisis. I urge you to approve these necessary investments to strengthen Oregon’s judicial system and protect the well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.