

Submitter: Michael Raaf

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Public Safety

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5533

I am writing to support the budget proposal for OMD. As an employee and National Guard Soldier of the department for almost 18 years, I have worked in many of our facilities over the years. We are in desperate need of additional funding and resources to update and upgrade our training and work facilities. Recruiting and retaining qualified top talent is a struggle for most military agencies across the US and is an even bigger challenge when the facilities we show them are aging and ineffective spaces. Additionally money to assist with a reenlistment bonus administered by the agency is a much needed resource. With federal funding in this area we are tied to strict mandates on who gets bonuses and how much they get. Having the ability to target bonus entitlements to additional populations would be an amazing opportunity to tailor our incentives toward the population of Soldiers we want and need to keep regardless of what the federal programs mandate.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed budget.