



MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell

March 25, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB 1161
Relating to organ transport vehicles

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

Senate Bill 1161 (SB 1161) defines organ transport vehicle designation that allows for the use of lights and sirens when time is of the essence for the preservation of life. The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office supports SB 1161, directing the Oregon Health Authority to issue a license to drive an organ transplant vehicle to those who apply and meet the following criteria:

- Current, former, retired, police officer, firefighter or EMS provider
- A driving record in good standing
- Applying under an organ procurement organization, as defined in ORS 97.953

SB 1161 introduces organ transport vehicles into existing ORS related to ambulances and emergency vehicles. Each organ transport vehicle owned or operated by an organ procurement organization must be individually licensed. Vehicles are required to be clearly and identifiably marked on all sides of the vehicle as an organ transport vehicle.

SB 1161 defines oversight by the Oregon Health Authority and outlines a straightforward structure with requirements to ensure accountability of organ transport vehicles and their drivers. As Sheriff, I understand the gravity and time sensitive nature of emergency situations and the efforts required to support the preservation of life. I support SB 1161, and I urge you too as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell".

Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell
Sheriff