OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
J O I N . S E R V E . P R O T E C T .
PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: **House Judiciary Committee**

From: Sheriff Matt Phillips, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 27, 2025

Re: **HB 2476 -1 - Testimony in Support**

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Matt Phillips. I am the Clatsop County Sheriff and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) to offer testimony in support of the dash-one amendment to HB 2476 which includes language negotiated by the Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) and the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA). OSSA has been actively involved in discussions to address the ongoing aid and assist challenges affecting the Oregon State Hospital and the broader criminal justice system.

Providing adequate treatment for mentally ill defendants is a top priority. The proposed language in HB 2476 ensures that individuals in need of restoration services receive the necessary time and support for effective treatment. This approach not only improves public safety but also helps ensure due process and fair outcomes for all parties involved. Other proposals under consideration present significant concerns, as they do not sufficiently address the complex needs of both the criminal justice system and the individuals requiring aid and assist services.

OSSA recognizes that this is a complicated and evolving issue. We remain committed to staying engaged in discussions surrounding aid and assist policies and civil commitment reforms. While there is still work to be done, the negotiated language in HB 2476 represents a positive first step toward meaningful and sustainable solutions.
For these reasons, OSSA urges your support of the proposed language in HB 2476. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and look forward to continued collaboration to refine policies that balance public safety with necessary treatment services.

Thank you for your consideration.