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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: House Committee on Judiciary

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

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police

Date: April 3, 2025

**Re: HB 2467 (dash 3 Amendment) - Testimony in Support
Addressing Oregon's Civil Commitment Crisis**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Lane Magill, I am the Wasco County Sheriff, and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to speak in favor of the dash 3 amendment to HB 2467.

For many years, law enforcement has witnessed the systemic failures of our mental health system in addressing the needs of individuals suffering from mental illness. We are, therefore, particularly encouraged by the proposed improvements aimed at ensuring these individuals receive the critical services they desperately require.

Specifically, House Bill 2467-3 amended language, provides clearer and more precise standards for evaluating dangerousness to self and/or others in the context of civil commitment. This clarity is essential. Too often, we observe individuals denied civil commitment who subsequently become involved in the criminal justice system, necessitating navigation through the Aid and Assist process.

We recognize and respect the intent to preserve individual liberties and reduce stigma, which has led to Oregon court decisions narrowing the criteria for civil commitment. However, this has inadvertently resulted in a significant decline in civil commitment rates, as evidenced by the decrease in the Oregon State Hospital's average daily population of civilly committed individuals since 2020.

Oregon law enforcement firmly believes that prioritizing treatment prior to involvement in the criminal justice system is not only more effective for public safety, but, more

importantly, provides individuals experiencing mental health crises with the necessary support to avoid criminalization altogether.

In conclusion, the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police respectfully urge the Committee's support for House Bill 2467 -3 amendment. We strongly believe this bill will make significant progress and improve our overall mental health system.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this critical issue, which impacts the well-being of all Oregonians.