



# CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

**Sheriff Angela Brandenburg**

Jesse Ashby, Undersheriff

Lee Eby, Undersheriff

Brad O'Neil, Undersheriff

April 9, 2025

**RE: Response to Chair Kropf's question regarding HB 3553**

Representative Hartman, Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallan and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I would like to follow up on a question raised during my testimony in support of HB 3553. Specifically, Chair Kropf asked whether possessing a pill press under the proposed bill would fall under the current law of Unlawful Manufacture of a Controlled Substance. I believe the key distinction here lies in what happens when law enforcement encounters a pill press before it's been used—or is in the process of being used—to manufacture a controlled substance.

To illustrate this, let me share an example from my time supervising the Clackamas County Interagency Task Force. One of my investigators was debriefing a known drug trafficker, who, during the interview, disclosed the location of a pill press and gave us consent to seize it. When we arrived at the storage unit, we found the pill press—but it wasn't in use. It was simply stored there, and there was no evidence suggesting it was actively being used to manufacture controlled substances at that time.

In the case of the crime "Attempt to Manufacture a Controlled Substance", law enforcement must be able to demonstrate that significant steps were taken toward actually starting the manufacturing process. A pill press, on its own, does not meet the threshold for an attempt unless we can prove that substantial actions have been taken to use the press in the commission of the crime. Although it wasn't evidence of an ongoing crime, the pill press was essentially a ticking time bomb. Had we not intervened, that press would have been ready to start producing counterfeit pills as soon as the necessary ingredients were available.

This example highlights the importance of HB 3553—allowing us to address the possession of pill presses before they are put into action. With this bill, we can take proactive steps to prevent the production of counterfeit pills and the associated harm.

Thank you for your time considering the support of HB 3553.

Respectfully,

Marcus Wold, Investigations Captain

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