



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

From: Chief Mark Daniel, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Tim Svenson, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 8, 2025

Re: HB 3946 - Testimony in Support
Expanding drug crime penalty zones to include
preschools (within 1000 ft)

Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 3946. HB 3946 takes an important step to protect Oregon's most vulnerable population—our children—by clarifying and expanding the definition of “school” for the purposes of manufacturing and delivery of controlled substance crimes. Specifically, the bill would include preschools, and public or private elementary, secondary, or career schools that are attended primarily by minors.

This clarification is both necessary and timely. Oregon has undergone significant changes in its drug policy over the last several years. During the 2024 legislative session, the passage of **House Bills 4002 and 5204** rebalanced Oregon's approach by allocating over \$200 million to expand behavioral health services, establishing a new drug enforcement misdemeanor and enhancing penalties for drug delivery offenses that occur near treatment facilities, shelters, and public parks—locations that serve and protect vulnerable community members.

In the same spirit, HB 3946 seeks to extend those same protections to preschools and career schools, which are not currently defined within statute for the purpose of controlled substance manufacturing and delivery crimes.

Our law enforcement officers continue to encounter individuals engaged in the manufacture and distribution of dangerous drugs within close proximity to children and

young students. These activities not only endanger the physical safety of students but also threaten the learning environments that are vital to their growth and development.

We believe HB 3946 is a commonsense measure that aligns with Oregon’s broader public safety and health goals. It supports efforts to reduce the availability and visibility of illicit drug activity in spaces where children should be able to learn and thrive without fear of exposure to drugs or criminal activity. It also aligns with the legislative intent shown in HB 4002—namely, to deter drug delivery in areas where the community is especially vulnerable.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of all Oregonians.