



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Sheriff Matt English, Hood River County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff Nick Hunter, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Chief Chris Skinner, Eugene Police Department
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: April 23, 2025

Re: **Testimony in Support - Department of Public Safety Standards
and Training (DPSST) Budget – HB 5032 & POP 101, 102 & 103**

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5032, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Budget. DPSST is an agency that is mission and system critical to our entire public safety system. Law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon depend on DPSST as our sole source for basic police, basic corrections, and basic community corrections officer training and certification.

DPSST is nationally recognized for being innovative, relevant, and forward thinking in public safety training and certification. We respectfully urge the committee to support funding for the agency in alignment with the Governor's Recommended Budget, allowing it to continue fulfilling this vital mission. Notably, the Current Service Level budget will provide the necessary staffing and resources to manage the high volume of students we've seen in recent years—a trend we expect to continue into the foreseeable future. We also would like to support a few Policy Option Packages targeted to a few strategic priorities.

Key DPSST Distinctives:

Core Training Academy: Unlike many other states, Oregon relies on a single, centralized academy for all basic police officer training. This unified model ensures that every officer—regardless of their agency or jurisdiction—receives the same consistent, high-quality instruction. In contrast, states with multiple training locations often struggle to maintain uniform standards.

One of the key strengths of Oregon's approach is that municipal police officers, county deputy sheriffs, and Oregon State Police Troopers all complete equivalent 16-week (police), 6-week (corrections), or 5-week (community corrections) training programs together. This shared experience fosters strong relationships across agencies and promotes effective collaboration throughout the state. As a result, Oregon is widely recognized for its exceptional level of partnership and coordination among public safety agencies.

Scenario-Based Training and Curriculum: Oregon's public safety training programs are grounded in science-based practices and are continuously updated to reflect the latest advancements in public safety. As an early advocate for the value scenario-based training, Oregon emphasizes contextually relevant, high-pressure situations that require students to develop and apply learned skills in realistic environments. This hands-on approach allows instructors to effectively coach and evaluate, better preparing students for the challenges they will face in the field once they return to their hiring agencies.

Center for Policing Excellence: Established in 2013 through House Bill 3194, the Center for Policing Excellence (CPE) was created to deliver research-based policing training and foster collaboration between researchers and criminal justice professionals. Since then, CPE's role has expanded to include developing up-to-date academy curricula and supporting statewide behavioral health and crisis response efforts. One of its key innovations is the Oregon Knowledge Bank—a centralized resource of evidence-based practices and problem-solving programs developed by and for Oregon's public safety community.

Support for DPSST Targeted Policy Option Package Funding:

POP 101: DPSST Learning Management System: It's surprising that the agency responsible for training such a wide range of public safety partners still operates without a learning management system (LMS). Implementing an LMS will allow DPSST to deliver consistent, high-quality training to public safety agencies regardless of their location. It ensures that all officers have equal access to important educational resources, promotes standardized practices, and allows for efficient tracking and documentation of completed training.

POP 102: Additional funding for Regional Training: Oregon has the fewest police officers per capita in the nation, with over 60 agencies staffed by 10 or fewer sworn officers. In many of these departments, the police chief responds to calls and backs up officers. Due to limited staffing, these agencies rely on accessible, regional training options, as sending officers to Salem is often not feasible. We urge your support for Policy Option Package 102, which adds a Field Training Officer (FTO) Coordinator and additional regional trainers to meet this critical need.

POP 103: Campus Expansion Study: This policy option package allocates \$500,000 for a campus expansion study. As Oregon's population grows, so does the demand on DPSST. Our current facilities are aging and operating at full capacity—we must plan for expansion to meet the state's current and future public safety training needs.

Thank you for your consideration!