



To: The Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
EMS and Fire Chapter of SDAO

Date: April 23, 2025

Re: SB 5032 – Testimony in Support – DPSST Budget

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5032, on behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire and EMS Services Chapter of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO). Our members represent nearly all of Oregon’s 300 fire agencies, most of which interact regularly with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).

DPSST plays a vital role in supporting our agencies by providing essential training, structure, and statewide certification standards. These standards ensure consistency and confidence in the skills of both paid and volunteer applicants across the state. When our agencies engage in mutual aid, we can trust that personnel are equipped with the necessary knowledge and capabilities—thanks to DPSST’s rigorous certification process.

Beyond foundational training, DPSST delivers invaluable resources through its Regional Training Coordinators. These trainers help local agencies access and safely use specialized training props funded by grants, including car fire, forcible entry, roof ventilation, and flag props. Their guidance allows our personnel to train effectively and safely using these critical tools. DPSST also serves as Oregon’s conduit to the National Fire Academy, bringing nationally recognized training to both new and veteran firefighters. Winter Fire School is another example of DPSST’s impact—drawing hundreds of career and volunteer attendees to learn essential skills in areas such as basic firefighting, vehicle extrication, and leadership.

We also support Policy Option Package 101, which would implement a statewide learning management system. This system would be especially valuable in rural Oregon, where volunteer firefighters often lack access to consistent training. With recent investments in internet infrastructure, this initiative presents an ideal opportunity to expand training access and support firefighter development in underserved areas.

Policy Option Package 102 proposes adding two wildfire training and coordination positions—an urgent need as Oregon continues to face increasingly severe wildfire threats. These positions will help identify training gaps and support the development of complete and capable task forces for mutual aid deployments.

Finally, Policy Option Package 090 addresses improvements to campus infrastructure, supporting the long-term growth and success of Oregon’s public safety system.

DPSST is a cornerstone of Oregon’s fire service—supporting essential operations today and preparing us for the challenges of tomorrow. We respectfully urge your support of HB 5032.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.