



CITY OF PENDLETON

Office of Chief of Police
622 Airport Road
Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone (541) 276-4411
Fax (541) 276-9108
Dispatch (541) 966-3650
www.ppd.pendletonpolice.or.us

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Dear Honorable Members of the Ways & Means Sub-Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Stuart Roberts. I am currently the Chief of Police for the City of Pendleton, which is a position I have held for 11 years. In the past 11 years, I have served on a number of law enforcement boards and committees including the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards & Training (DPSST) Police Policy Committee and Board. I also served as the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) President in 2010-2011. My purpose for referencing my experience is not to self-promote, but to emphasize my unique perspective. With that said, I respectfully submit this position letter in support of identifying and honoring sustainable funding for DPSST.

As you know, DPSST is charged with training, certifying and assisting a number of public safety personnel/disciplines throughout Oregon. I am sure you are also aware that DPSST is the sole provider of basic police training services in Oregon. I believe my testimony is pertinent to ongoing discussions concerning DPSST funding, because I like 60% of the other law enforcement leaders in this state either serve rural communities, and/or have 10 or fewer sworn police officers. The reality of the previous statement is concerning, because the majority of law enforcement agencies in this state do not have the fiscal, instructor and/or equipment resources needed to properly train their respective personnel without DPSST's assistance.

The problem(s) identified are exacerbated by the elimination of five DPSST regional training positions over the last few bienniums and 40 FTE total. Right now, there are two regional training personnel attempting to meet the maintenance training needs of career officers across this state. Although the regional trainers referenced are doing the best they can, agencies are waiting months and in some cases years for intermediate or advanced training. Perhaps, even more concerning is the elimination of the Supervisory and Mid-Management training courses for new supervisors and managers. Supervisors and managers are often times the catalyst to positive outcomes, mentorship, development and oversight. Yet, agencies struggle to identify, secure and pay for appropriate training for tomorrow's leaders. As if these reductions do not present enough of a challenge to law enforcement administrators and the governmental entities who employ them, it is not uncommon for new Legislation to be passed, which requires more mandated training, protocols and/or standards even though the ability to comply with existing requirements exceeds the capacity of many cities and counties. Hence, the citizens of Oregon are left with reduced or on-existent law enforcement services.

In closing, I just want to state that I appreciate the difficult decisions each of you has to make on a daily basis. I also want to reiterate that appropriate DPSST funding is more than merely public safety training...the competency and professionalism of public safety personnel statewide has a very direct effect



on all Oregonians. The authority and discretion granted law enforcement officers in this state should not be taken lightly...economic growth/development; quality of life issues and the vitality of many communities across this state depend on it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart A. Roberts". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Stuart A. Roberts

