

---

# **OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

## **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 70**

**Before the Senate Judiciary Committee, February 13, 2013**

**By: OSSA President Jason Myers, Marion County Sheriff**

---



Chair Prozanski, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Myers, and I am the Marion County Sheriff. I'm here today representing the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association which opposes Senate Bill 70.

Senate Bill 70 would permanently remove the sunset clause from Senate Bill 730 which was passed in the 2011 Legislative session. While the Sheriffs, in an act of good faith, didn't actively oppose Senate Bill 730 in the 2011 session, have since felt a tremendous impact from this bill as it reduced the baseline funding to our community corrections/ local control by approximately 10 million dollars. As a result, most counties around the state were forced to reduce jail beds (for the Senate Bill 1145 population) in order to compensate for this funding reduction. Meanwhile, the workload for this population has remained roughly the same.

In Marion County, this resulted in a 1.2 million dollar biennial reduction (\$600,000 per county fiscal year) to our state community corrections funding which forced our county to close 56 jail beds. With 56 fewer jail beds in our local correctional system we have drastically diminished our sanctioning ability for our entire supervised populations. Daily supervised and local control individuals are brought to our jail for sanctioning purposes only to be immediately released as we simply cannot hold them due to the reduced capacity. Sanctioning is a very important part of the reformative process and with this reduction we have effectively lost this tool in Marion County. In talking with other Sheriffs around our state many of them have felt similar impacts with this bill and reduction in funding. While we acknowledge this bill may highlight an effective evidence-based practice, the unintended consequence of jail bed closures has certainly negated any potential positive effects.

Your Oregon Sheriffs and counties have been committed to our shared responsibilities under the Senate bill 1145/Community Corrections agreement. We ask that you thoughtfully review each piece of legislation that could impact this funding and remember that reductions to this funding have significant impacts to each of our fragile local public safety systems around the state.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Oregon State Sheriffs' Association**

PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303 (503) 364-4204 [info@oregonsheriffs.org](mailto:info@oregonsheriffs.org) [www.oregonsheriffs.org](http://www.oregonsheriffs.org)