



To: Members of the House Rules Committee

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: June 1, 2015

Re: Testimony in Favor of HB 2936 A (Sobering Centers) with adoption of the dash 19 amendments

Chair Hoyle and members of the House Rules Committee, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to urge your support of 2936 A with adoption of the dash A-19 amendments.

As our law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon work to address increasingly complex community needs with limited resources, HB 2936 A provides communities with a path to create “sobering facilities” as a safe and appropriate place for police officers to take severely intoxicated individuals. Without a sobering facility, police officers are faced with the option of taking a severely intoxicated/impaired person to a hospital emergency room (which is expensive and time consuming) or booking them into the county jail. Neither of these options is ideal or appropriate. These challenges are especially acute in smaller communities where social service resources are strained and limited.

HB 2936 A removes a critical liability obstacle that prevents communities from pursuing the establishment of a sobering center by extending criminal and civil immunity to facilities based on specific conditions. We believe this measure will result in the creation of facilities designed to stabilize the severely intoxicated so they can be connected to the longer term treatment resources they need.

Thank you for your consideration of this important measure and for supporting HB 2936 A with the dash 19 amendments.