



To: **Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee**

From: Sheriff Pat Garrett, Washington County Sheriffs' Office
On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association &
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: April 5, 2017

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 1025**

Dear Senator Prozanski and Committee Members,

As president of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, I stand alongside the Oregon Council of Police Associations and the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police in support of SB 1025, which will help protect the health of law enforcement professionals following contact with the bodily fluid of another person while performing their essential job duties.

Currently, law enforcement agencies face delays in receiving test results for life-threatening diseases and medical conditions of individuals who are in their custody. The proposed amendments to ORS 433.085 will ensure test results are shared with law enforcement agencies in a timely manner. They will also expand testing to include all communicable diseases, not just HIV and hepatitis B or C.

Delaying critical medical information to our law enforcement professionals who have been exposed to bodily fluids is a potential public health risk that threatens public safety. The sooner our law enforcement professionals know if they may have been exposed to a life-threatening disease or condition, the sooner they can seek treatment and take the right steps to prevent further exposure to their co-workers, family members and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Garrett", written in a cursive style.

Pat Garrett, Sheriff
President, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association