



**To: Members of the Joint Interim Committee on The First Special Session of 2020**

**From:** Chief Jim Ferraris, President  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

**Date:** June 23, 2020

**Re: Testimony re LC 49, 78, 79, 80, 81 & 83 – Police Accountability Measures from Oregon Police Chiefs**

**Good Morning Chair Courtney, Chair Kotek and members of the committee:**

My name is Jim Ferraris and I am the current President of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP). I have served Oregon as a law enforcement officer for the past 42 years. Currently I am the Chief of Police for the City of Woodburn; previously I have served the communities of Salem, Portland and Beaverton.

There are roughly 6,000 certified police officers in Oregon. In my decades of law enforcement service to this State, of the hundreds and hundreds of police officers I have worked with, the vast majority are dedicated public servants, exercising humanity, care and compassion in the performance of their duties.

Our association has a clear history of working with the legislature on behalf of all Oregonians. As leaders and professionals, our goal is to have and maintain a transparent criminal justice system that is legitimate, equitable, fair and just for all people. We are your law enforcement executives. We have a unique perspective because of our training, experience and insight.

We are facing the most difficult times that I can recall in my 5-decade career. We are not ignorant to current conditions. Support is galvanized to make change. We know change is needed. We are trying to make reforms, recalibrating to be accountable to our communities that we serve. We want to help shape and influence the narrative to the success of law enforcement for the benefit of our communities so that people are safe and free to live their lives. We want to provide guidance, advice, experience and insight that is relevant resulting in maintaining public safety through trust and transparency. We stand in the threshold with you to provide insight so you can make the best decisions.

We have been and will continue to be a voice in furtherance of that goal. My hope is that decisions will be made based upon facts, evidence and data, not on emotion, politics or perceptions.

Testimony from our association will be in the record for the bills the Oregon Legislature will consider related to “police accountability”. We appreciate having a seat at the table as we work through these critical times.

Thank you for your consideration.