



**To: Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety**

**From: Chief John Teague, Immediate Past President**

Oregon Association Chiefs of Police  
Chief of Police, City of Keizer

**Date: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Re: Support for SB 5533**

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Budget and Policy Option  
Package 103

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Winters and Piluso and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is John Teague. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Keizer and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to speak in favor of the DPSST budget and policy option package 103. On behalf of the Keizer police department, my officers and informed members of our community are very thankful for the services provided to us by Oregon's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Policing is in transition. It's becoming more relational and more problem-oriented. This means police officers and patrol deputies are increasingly less likely to use enforcement to solve crime problems and to increase public safety. Importantly, Oregon's Public Safety Academy is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader—arguably as the leader—in inculcating and otherwise furthering modern, evidence-based policing.

The fundamental reason Oregon leads the way is because DPSST and the legislature have not overlooked small agencies. Two-thirds of the nation's and almost half of Oregon's police departments and sheriff's patrols are small agencies, with fewer than ten sworn officers, yet almost all of the policing research—the research into how to police more fairly and effectively, reducing crime while also reducing arrests—almost all of that policing research was and is conducted by and for an audience of mid- to large agencies serving populations of 100,000 or more. The problem, then, is translating that research for and making it accessible to small agency decision-makers.

HB 3194 (2013) established the Center for Policing Excellence, which was tasked with bridging the divide between small agencies and the nascent but increasingly abundant policing research. Your investments in the Center for Policing Excellence and the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (which was also established by HB 3194) are known to increase public safety while reducing arrests and recidivism, thus reducing the use of prison.

It's noteworthy that Oregon's law enforcement has been pursuing these changes before the events at Ferguson, MO and elsewhere. I say it's noteworthy, because we've come by these changes honestly and earnestly, not with reluctance or because we were forced to move.

HB 2355 (2017) continued the work of HB 2002 (2015), which was the law enforcement profiling bill. You can be encouraged that the profiling data collection of HB's 2002 and 2355 has been noiselessly accepted by every agency and enthusiastically accepted by many.

We are well along the way. Almost all of the pieces are in place. What's missing is not the desire: cops want to police in a way that makes everyone's lives better, that prevents crime from happening in the first place. What's missing is not the will: police leaders are attentive to better, less harmful ways to police. What's missing is not the means to communicate better policing strategies and tactics. What's missing is the research itself. The vast majority of it is not easily accessible to those who aren't academics or criminologists.

In HB 2355, we established the need for capable, trained persons to seek out, apprehend, and translate the research for Oregon's small agencies. The reason this recommendation appeared in 2355 is because the research shows that when agencies police smarter— when they solve underlying crime and disorder problems, rather than focus upon enforcement—it has a disproportionate benefit for minority communities. Problem-solving policing is race neutral; it's age-neutral. It's gender-neutral. It helps people, generally at the least cost to everyone. But agencies have to know what works in policing and what doesn't. That's what policing research tells us.

I encourage you to infuse a small but crucial component: the research positions in DPSST's Policy Option Package 103. Without them there is a very real risk that policing in Oregon will never rise above arrest and citation as the initial response to every problem.

I am hopeful you will support SB 5533 and fully fund Policy Option Package 103 to energize and enable the thoughtful intent of House Bills 3194 and 2355.

Thank you,



John Teague  
Chief of Police