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Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Conservators of the Peace

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2515

Chair Williamson and members of the House Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Jason Myers; I am the Marion County Sheriff and represent the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association in support of House Bill 2515.

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association has long held that our Oregon Jails follow best correctional practices. To that extent, the Sheriffs' Association created the Oregon Jail Standards/best practices that all jails in Oregon voluntarily strive to achieve. Currently there are 300 plus standards with the vast majority of these standards going beyond the local correctional facility statute requirements. Each Oregon jail receives a biannual inspection on their compliance with these standards, with the inspection being completed by members of a Jail inspection team from jails across the state.

The Oregon Jail Standards and best practices are constantly under review by our in-house counsel and the members of our Jail Command Council. Last year, our in-house counsel became aware of federal legislation regarding feminine hygiene products and federal female inmates. It was at this time that all jails in Oregon were encouraged to offer tampons, in addition to sanitary napkins, to all female inmates. Most of the Oregon jails that were not providing tampons made this policy change right away and the few remaining jails that hadn't already done so, made this change around the first of the year. The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association will be proposing that female hygiene items (tampons, sanitary napkins and panty liners) be added to the Oregon Jail Standards/best practices so it will be codified.

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association and your Oregon Sheriffs are always striving to meet our community needs and best correctional practices. We believe that our Oregon State Jail standards and the process for the review of these standards/best practices, along with our implementation of new and emerging practices, the inspection of our jail facilities and the adherence to our standards demonstrate our commitment to providing the very best in correctional services. In closing, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association supports House Bill 2515.