



To: **Members of the House Committee on Health Care**

From: **Deputy Chief Skip Miller, Salem Police Department**
On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police &
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 5th, 2019

Re: **Support for HB 2339:**
Sobering Facilities Matching Grant Program Administered by the
Oregon Health Authority

Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chair Nosse and Hayden and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Skip Miller. I am the Deputy Chief for the Salem Police Department and I am here today to speak in favor of HB 2339 on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association.

HB 2339 directs the Oregon Health Authority to administer a matching grant program designed to support registered sobering facilities. This program combines state and local resources to insure that these facilities remain viable and adequately funded over time.

As our law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon work to address increasingly complex community needs with limited resources, sobering facilities are a safe and appropriate place for police officers to take severely intoxicated individuals who are unable to care for themselves. 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.

On behalf of Chiefs and Sheriffs from throughout the state, we urge your support for HB 2339 and thank you for your consideration!