



## Legislative Testimony

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 18, 2019

The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

#### **Regarding: House Bill 2041**

Chair Williamson and members of the committee, I am Daryl Borello, Assistant Director of the Human Resources Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of HB 2041 and answer any questions.

#### **What the Bill Does:**

Passage of this bill would add DOC Parole and Probation Officers to the definition of “police officer” for the purpose of life insurance benefits for Police Officers and Firefighters.

#### **Background Information:**

Historically, some DOC staff, including Parole and Probation Officers, received the insurance benefit referenced in ORS 243.025. However, a Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion determined the statute did not cover certain DOC staff, as well as the Parole and Probation Officers. In 2016, DOC and AFSCME agreed to cover the Parole and Probation Officers through a reimbursement of enrollment in the PEBB Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) policy until a statutory fix could be made.

#### **Issues Addressed by the Bill:**

DOC Parole and Probation Officers are certified through the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Some of these officers are armed during the performance of their duties. They are sworn to uphold the laws and court orders of the state of Oregon. Daily, they contact individuals with intensive criminal backgrounds while out in our communities, rural areas, and at the individual’s home – placing themselves in harm’s way to enforce conditions of supervision and laws. When appropriate, DOC Parole and Probation Officers arrest individuals in violation of conditions of supervision and laws. Much like municipal Police and Corrections Officers, DOC Parole and Probation Officers are often called upon to testify in court procedures as witnesses for the state.

House Bill 2041 would give these Parole and Probation Officers the same access to life insurance benefits as Police Officers, Firefighters, and Corrections Officers.

**Requested Action:**

For the reasons explained above, the department asks this committee to vote HB 2041 out of committee with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Submitted by:*

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