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# Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

## *Conservators of the Peace*

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Jason Myers, I am the Marion County Sheriff and I am here today representing the Oregon State Sheriff's Association to testify in support of SB 495 with adoption of the dash 3 amendment. I want to thank Senator Gelser, Chair Prozanski and Committee Counsel for working with us on this amendment language.

As you are aware, there was one (1) Oregon Sheriff's Office that had a policy and used a police protection Canine to gain compliance of an Inmate in their Jail. I'm happy to report that with the election of a new Sheriff in this County, the policy has been rescinded and discontinued. In addition, the Oregon State Sheriffs Association is adding a strict prohibition against use of canines for cell extraction to our statewide jail standards.

Your Oregon Sheriffs believe in the humane treatment of those committed to our care and custody in our jails. While there are times that compliance must be gained to maintain the safety and security in a correctional setting, we do not believe it should be done with a police protection canine. Instead our correctional professionals look to other options that seek to de-escalate the situation and mitigate the risk of injury of those in our custody.

With this being said, we do believe it is important that drug/contraband detection canines, therapy dogs, programs that seek to train/rehabilitate canines are still allowed in a correctional setting. Drug/contraband detection canines help to ensure a safe correctional environment and programs that train/rehabilitate canines/dog therapy programs are pro social in nature. This bill with the proposed amendment would allow the use of canines for these purposes.

In closing, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association supports SB 495 with the dash 1 amendment. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.