



To: Members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Chief John Teague, Keizer Police Department
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
Sheriff Jason Myers, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 12th, 2019

Re: Support for SB 5515 – Department of Justice Budget Criminal Division

Good morning Co-chairs Winters and Piluso and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Oregon Department of Justice budget and to highlight the critical importance of the Criminal Division and their work to support city, county and state law enforcement agencies and district attorneys.

As a true partner to law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon, the Criminal Division of DOJ plays an important role in our justice system that can't be underestimated. The investigative expertise they provide to law enforcement agencies and district attorneys on complex cases in areas like public corruption, elder abuse, financial crimes, internet crimes against children and organized crime is a resource that is indispensable. The Criminal Justice Division staff approaches their mission to assist police agencies thoughtfully as a partner and with the goal of achieving excellence results together.

With the resource challenges that our police agencies are experiencing throughout the state along with the growing complexity of criminality and criminal cases, the work of the Organized Crime Section to conduct criminal investigations and prosecutions of complex criminal organizations is an asset that doesn't otherwise exist. Likewise, DOJ's resource prosecutors and investigators provide legal advice, training, trial and investigative expertise on a wide range of cases. In the areas of DUII, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse, the DOJ Criminal Division has staff dedicated to these specialized areas of public safety.

In addition, local law enforcement benefits from the work of the Oregon TITAN Fusion Center and their work to receive, analyze and share information that is critical to preventing and responding to criminal and terrorist activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the important work of the Oregon Department of Justice Criminal Division. The funding they receive is critical to the work of our public safety agencies in Oregon.