



**To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee**

**From: Kevin Campbell, Lobbyist**  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Date: May 28, 2019**

**Re: Support for SB 7 – DUII BAC Reduction to .05  
Informational Hearing**

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association in support of SB 7.

Let me begin with a pitch for HB 2046, a measure that is currently in the Ways and Means Committee that would set a staffing level for Oregon State Troopers. Nationally, Oregon ranks 48 out of the 49 states that have a highway patrol function in troopers per 100,000 population. This lack of visible enforcement on Oregon roads is a traffic safety problem that must be addressed. We believe that lowering the Blood Alcohol Level (BAC) for purposes of our DUII law in tandem with an increased trooper presence will have a significant and positive impact on the safety of the motoring public.

Oregon is often a pioneer on a wide range of public safety issues and we work hard to innovate for the purpose of increasing public safety. For example, Oregon joined the State of Utah in 1983 as the first two states to lower the BAC to .08. Based on recent research, we believe that Oregon should play a pioneering role again by lowering the BAC to .05. We believe and recent research reinforces the argument that adopting this new standard will translate in reduced fatalities on Oregon roads. A 2017 National Institutes of Health funded study "Effectiveness of .08 and .05 BAC Limits for Driving" estimates that a .05 or lower BAC would result in an 11.1% decline in fatal alcohol-related crashes and save approximately 1,790 lives annually in the U.S. (NORC, 2017). Further, twenty years of international studies have shown that when a country lowers its BAC limits from .08 to .05, alcohol related fatal and injury crashes decreased between 5% and 10% (Mann et al, 2001, Fell & Voas, 2006).

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association is pleased to join the Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to support a reduction of DUII BAC to .05%.

Thank you for your time and consideration.