



Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association

February 28, 2019

Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso and Distinguished Committee Members, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide you with some information about the Oregon State Police. My name is Kevin Walruff, I am a retired Oregon police officer with over 26 years of experience and I am the current Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association (ONEA) President.

ONEA is in its 51st year of being an association. We have over 260 members who are from municipal, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The job duties of our membership range from crime analysts, investigators and prosecutors. ONEA creates a network for communication, training and prevention of drug related crimes and trends. The Oregon State Police has been a great supporter of our association and held the position of ONEA President several times over the years.

The state of Oregon continually has drug and property crimes at the top of our crime reporting. It is my opinion these statistics are related. People who misuse legal drugs and those people who use illegal drugs become dependent on those substances. As the person continues to use their body builds up a tolerance. To continue to achieve the same effect of the drug, the user must constantly increase the amount of the substance. As they progress into addiction, the cost of the substance may rise and fall with the market but because of the increased amount needed to achieve the desired effect, the expense increases. In most addiction cases, this leads to theft. First from family members, money out of a purse or selling an item taken from the house. But as time goes on the addiction becomes costlier, creating the need to steal from others, like thefts from vehicles, burglaries and even robberies. A heroin addict who uses a gram a day, in order to not get sick, can easily pay \$100 for that gram. This daily expense adds up quickly at a minimum of \$700 a week just to keep from getting sick and functioning in life. I don't know of too many people who can take care of themselves, worst yet a family, with that expense. This leads to large amounts of fraud and theft within our communities. People do not consume drugs to go out and steal property. They go out and steal property, so they can afford to consume drugs. This effect then victimizes the rest of our society thus debunking the myth that drug crimes are victimless.

The marijuana industry in Oregon has created a path for the black market to move under the laws created for law abiding producers, processors and sellers. There are people in the industry who are following the rules and getting beat out by others who choose to take advantage of the system. Law enforcement is a key element in holding accountable those who are putting the program at risk. The state of Oregon needs to do all it can to prevent cannabis from leaving this state.

The Oregon State Police, as well as many other law enforcement agencies in Oregon, need additional resources to protect our communities and preventing crime. When other agencies suffer cuts to their resources, like manpower, the Oregon State Police must cover that responsibility in life threatening cases thereby reducing the areas OSP may have otherwise been proactive, such as DUII enforcement or Domestic Highway Enforcement.

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ONEA would like to support the Oregon State Police in their effort for regular funding of their Patrol Services, Criminal Investigation Divisions and Forensic Services. Without these resources proactive prevention, enforcement and prosecution will suffer and as a result those members of our community who fail to follow our laws and who prey on our law-abiding citizens will not be held accountable and the citizens will continue to be victimized.

Thank you for your time and consideration on these comments,

Kevin Walruff
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