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Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Conservators of the Peace

Testimony in Support of SB 1545

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. For the record, my Name is Tim Svenson, I am the Yamhill County Sheriff, Vice President of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and here today testifying on behalf of the Association in support of SB1545.

Your Oregon Sheriffs (regardless of the agency size) depend on our partners at the Oregon State Police to help us with the important job of keeping our communities across the state safe. The Oregon State Police (and our Sheriffs Offices and Police Departments across the state) share the unfortunate distinction of having one of the lowest law enforcement officer per citizen levels in the United States. Any increase in Law Enforcement Officer staffing translates into increased police coverage and lowers Law Enforcement response times to calls for service.

In closing, we would like recognize Superintendent Hampton for his leadership and the great working relationship he shares with our Association and Sheriffs Offices across the State. We know that you have many important State agencies asking for additional funding in this short session. We ask that you make public safety a priority by supporting SB1545.

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to testify on this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.