



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
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PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

From: Yamhill County Tim Svenson, President
Oregon State Sheriff's Association
SvensonT@co.yamhill.or.us

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
OACP-President@policechief.org

Date: April 14th, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of the Oregon Judicial Department Budget – HB 5012

Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sollman and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5012, the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) Budget.

OSSA and OACP would like to first recognize Chief Justice Martha Walters for her continued leadership and direction over state court functions throughout the current pandemic. The orderly and efficient operations of the courts are a fundamental component to Justice and Oregon's public safety system.

OSSA and OACP are testifying today in full support of HB 5012 which will provide current service level funding for statewide court operations. Courts are essential to each community as they make key decisions that are critical to community and public safety. The pandemic has caused all court districts to have a growing number of pending cases that need a resolution. The resources provided by the legislature directly affect how quickly these cases can be resolved. Any backlog in criminal cases creates an undo burden on local jails and public safety system resources. Funding of state court operations is important to every county and community in this state as local resources for public safety operations are minimal. Adding any burden of costs for court operations will result in less public safety resources at the local level. This is something that none of our communities can afford as Oregon is the lowest policed state in the nation.

OJD funding helps support local court security funding which is passed through to each county from the OJD budget. Safe court operations are fundamental to our public safety systems. Also,

OJD funding helps support courthouse replacement and/or improvement projects which enhance security and safety for those who are accessing the courts. All fine revenue collected by the courts help support law enforcement training, crime labs operations, the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), and other critical public safety functions which are funded through the Criminal Fines Account.

OSSA and OACP also supports the General Fund request for the State Court Technology Fund. This request will ensure court data goes into LEDS, which is critical to officer safety, efficient court operations, and victim notification. Through this technology, OJD provides remote access to court documents, which aids in efficiency for Jails and other public safety system partners. The importance of this funding is considerable as, without it, measures (such as HB 2177) shift OJD costs to local counties that don't have any resources. Any cost shift (from state to local budgets) will ultimately result in less local public safety resources.

In closing, we ask for the committee's support of HB 5012 and funding for this fundamental part of our public safety system. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and we are happy to answer any questions the committee might have.