

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you today. I live and work in Jackson County and I have served as a trooper for the Oregon State Police for the last 6yrs.

Public safety has been and always will be important and your State Troopers play a vital role in keeping our communities and our roads safe. But we need more troopers to make that happen.

The current number of state troopers on the road places our state second to last in the nation with 8 patrol troops for every 100,000 Oregonians. The consequences of these low numbers means calls for service go unanswered affecting the safety of my family and yours. Senate Bill 211's 10-year plan will increase that ratio to 15 per 100,000 by 2030, which would put Oregon at 25th in the nation for Troopers to population.

I am currently assigned to F&W Division and have had to divert from those duties numerous times to assist patrol personnel due to lack of available patrol troopers. I am speaking today bc I need your help.

My duties are to provide education, enforce and protect Oregon's wildlife and natural resources. It becomes quite challenging to fulfill these obligations and reach rural areas where these crimes occur, when we are needed to respond to calls located on our state highways. I was recently 1st on-scene to a DUII crash where the driver crashed into gas pumps, ripping them from their base and into a store front. The crash took me from my assigned duties for hours. The 2 troopers who arrived to assist were also Fish and Wildlife Troopers. The combined time spent would be equal to or more than an entire shift. This morning (04/17/2021) I came on early to do a pre-planned operation with our pilot and we both ended up spending the 1st part of our shift on another DUII crash while no patrol was available.

For decades, the Oregon State Police has been under-prioritized and overlooked, resulting in unpatrolled highways and increased fatalities throughout the state. The 2021 Legislative Session is the perfect opportunity to change that course.

I appeal to you, to increase our state's investment in OSP for next biennium and to pass Senate Bill 211 to make the legislative intent clear that we need to restore trooper coverage.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your commitment to improving our state's investment in your State Troopers.