



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: **Members of the House Committee on Rules**

From: Yamhill County Sheriff Tim Svenson, President
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: April, 30th 2021

Re: **Opposition to HB 2002**

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2002.

Oregon law enforcement has a proven track record of working closely with the Oregon State Legislature to establish public safety legislation that is responsive to community needs, reflects best practice and improves public safety outcomes for all Oregonians. With this as a goal, Oregon law enforcement was pleased to play a role in the collaborative and bi-partisan process that resulted in a package of 16 police reform bills that are moving through the legislative process during the 2021 Legislative Session.

We strongly believe that the police reform package represents a meaningful and comprehensive change to police practice that will translate into equity, increased transparency and enhanced community trust in Oregon policing. We thank House Judiciary Chair Janelle Bynum, Co-Chairs Power and Noble and the members of their committee for their hard work on these measures. The package of bills represents months of hearings and policy work that reflect a thoughtful legislative process.

House Bill 2002 has not followed the same robust process that resulted in the police reform package and we are asking that this bill not move forward. There is a significant amount of work that is still required to ensure that the police reform package of 16 bills is adopted. We have committed to fully support their passage and believe that HB 2002 detracts from the positive and collaborative progress that is currently underway.

It is hard for us to testify today on amendments to HB 2002 as they have not been posted with an adequate amount of time to review. We believe that input from law enforcement is crucial as well-intended changes to the public safety system can have unintended consequences and result in negative impacts to community safety. Our associations have significant concerns with this measure as it is currently written and based on a dash 4 “working draft” amendment we received on April 5th. In light of the limited time the committee has for the hearing on HB 2002 today, we are submitting a letter for the record that details our concerns and the concerns of our public safety and local government partners based on the April 5th “working draft”. We provided this letter to members of the House Judiciary Committee on April 7th.

When adding the police reform measures that were adopted during the 2020 Special Sessions to the 16 reform measures currently moving through the process this session, 23 police reform bills will have been considered by the Oregon Legislature. Moving HB 2002 forward this late in session without proper vetting, discussion and policy work sets the measure up for failure. We are committed to focusing on supporting the police reform bills already in play and request that the provisions in HB 2002 be revisited in a future session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration.