



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 Judiciary

From: Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police

Date: February 10th, 2022

Re: Testimony re Amendments to HB 4008

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, please accept the following testimony regarding the amendments posted to HB 4008.

As you know, during the 2020 Special Sessions and 2021 Legislative Session, our associations worked closely with this committee and advocates to support and pass 23 police reform measures that include a wide-range of meaningful changes to law enforcement and our public safety system as a whole. Our police agencies throughout Oregon are working hard to honor your efforts by fully implementing the requirements of the measures. We believe it is very important for these reforms to have the necessary time to work before considering additional legislation that expands the agreements reached during the 2021 Session or that pursue new reform proposals. Based on these considerations, we have the following positions on these amendments:

Dash-4 Amendment - Oppose: This amendment violates the agreement reached during the 2021 negotiation around the police reform package by requiring the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to add economic discipline data to the decertification database for the past 30 years. This will have a significant financial impact to both the State (DPSST) and local law enforcement agencies. These additional costs would undoubtedly impact critical law enforcement training and vital public safety services our law enforcement agencies perform statewide.

Dash-5 Amendment – Oppose: The amendment is unnecessary as Oregon’s Chiefs and Sheriffs commit to uphold our laws as a part of the code of ethics and their oath of office and there are already structures and provisions in place that hold police chiefs and sheriffs accountable. Our Oregon chiefs and sheriffs have demonstrated over and over again their commitment to high ethical standards and to upholding the law. The message this amendment sends can only further demoralize leaders that have endured the numerous challenges of the past few years. We are always willing to engage in a constructive discussion if there are concerns that need consideration.

Dash-6 Amendment – Support: This amendment would provide critical staff to support the implementation of HB 2930 (2021 police reform package) and the work of the Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline. This important commission is tasked with adopting rules that prescribe uniform standards of conduct and disciplinary standards & procedures for all law enforcement officers.

Dash-8 Amendment – Oppose: This comprehensive amendment was posted late yesterday and, as such, shouldn’t be considered this session. Based on our initial review, we cannot support this amendment because it goes significantly beyond clarifications and adjustments to the police reforms passed during the 2021 Legislative Session and includes a number of complex and problematic policy provisions.

Thank you for your consideration!