



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
JOIN . SERVE . PROTECT .

PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
kevin@victorygrp.com

Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
jason@oregonsheriffs.org

Date: March 2, 2023

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 5514
Additional Funding for Critical Programs**

Good afternoon Co-chairs Sollman and Evans and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) budget and to highlight a few critical programs that we hope the committee will prioritize for funding for the 2023 – 2025 biennium. DOJ is an important partner to city, county and state law enforcement agencies and district attorneys as the resources and expertise they provide is critically important to our public safety system.

As a true partner to law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon, the Criminal Division of DOJ plays an important role in our justice system that can't be underestimated. The investigative expertise this division provides to law enforcement agencies and district attorneys on complex cases in areas such as public corruption, elder abuse, financial crimes, internet crimes against children and organized crime is a resource that is indispensable. The Criminal Justice Division staff approaches their mission to assist law enforcement agencies thoughtfully as a partner and with the goal of achieving excellent results together.

In addition to general support for the DOJ budget, we would like to highlight the following three funding priorities that we believe are important and worthy of your consideration as you craft public safety budgets:

Internet Crimes Against Children (POP 253): Oregon's program to identify, investigate and prosecute the profound increase in crimes committed against children by on-line predators is severely underfunded. Oregon's ICAC staffing is far lower than that of neighboring states, limiting our ability to follow up on cybertips and engage in preventative measures and active investigations. According to DOJ, Oregon currently has 5 ICAC FTE and received 4,873 cybertips in 2021. By comparison, Washington State has 31 FTE and received 5,973 cybertips in 2021, and Idaho has 24 FTE and received

1,100 cybertips. We strongly support the addition of 14 positions/12.32 FTE to ICAC and believe the \$3.9 M General Fund appropriation. (14 Positions/12.32 FTE, \$3.9M GF) is critically important.

Gun Violence Resource Prosecutor (POP 258): We also support funding for resources for a criminal prosecutor and investigator to enhance public safety by keeping firearms out of the hands of individuals who commit crimes and those experiencing a mental health crisis. (2 Positions/1.76 FTE, \$750,947 GF)

Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement (POP 254): During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline Commission was created through the passage of HB 2930, one of 20 police reform measures passed between the special sessions in 2020 and the 2022 Legislative Session. DOJ provides the infrastructure and extensive support for this commission, including staff support that is currently borrowed from other DOJ programs. The commission's work is ongoing and adequate staffing is needed to ensure we meet the future work and objectives of the commission. (2 Positions/1.76 FTE, \$752,164 GF)

Thank you for the opportunity to support the important work of the Oregon Department of Justice and to highlight a few very important funding priorities. The agency's work and funding for these programs is critical to the work of our public safety agencies throughout Oregon.