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**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**From:** Jason Myers, Executive Director  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association  
  
Kevin Campbell, Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police

**Date:** March 8, 2023

**Re: SB 318 and SB 340- Testimony in support-Retail theft funding and policy packages**

**Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,**

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) we submit this testimony in support of SB 318 and SB 340.

As you have heard through testimony, retail theft by organized crime has skyrocketed in the last several years. At the same time, law enforcement personnel has been depleted by retirements and individuals leaving the line of work all together. This workforce challenge is more dire considering Oregon's status as one of the least policed states in the United States. Based on 2021 data, Oregon was ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 1.48 officers per thousand population. This has forced many law enforcement agencies to focus almost exclusively on responding to life endangering calls for service due to low staffing. Often, when calls of retail theft are received by law enforcement, they are unable to respond quickly and, in some cases, are not able to respond at all.

OSSA and OACP participated in the Organized Retail Theft Task Force this past fall which informed SB 318 and SB 340. This Task Force brought together retailers, law enforcement and prosecutors for a comprehensive discussion of the issues associated with organized retail theft and to develop strategies to address it from every angle possible. SB 318 and SB 340 include a combination of funding and resources for Law Enforcement and prosecutors to address these ever-increasing crimes. The grant funding identified in the measure will allow police agencies to work in partnership to focus limited resources on the most effective and targeted efforts to address organized retail theft. OSSA and OACP fully support both measures and ask for your support as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 318 and SB 340.