



**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 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 21, 2023

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 900 with Adoption of the Dash 1 Amendment**

**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 900.

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 900. 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 900 includes the funding and resources for Law Enforcement, which totals to \$5 million. 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 this measure and ask for your support as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 900.