



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

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

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Amanda Dalton, Lobbyist
Oregon District Attorney's Association

Date: April 24th 2023

Re: HB 2395 A - Testimony in Support
Opioid Harm Reduction Policy Package

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA), the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) and the Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA), please accept this letter in full support of the Opioid Harm Reduction Policy Package contained in HB 2395 A.

Protecting Oregonians, maintaining safe communities and ensuring quality of life for Oregonians is the primary objective for Oregon's public safety professionals. The epidemic of opioid use and abuse in our communities around the state has one of the most significant impacts on our efforts to achieve these important objectives. Your Public Safety Professionals have direct experience with the devastation this epidemic is causing to our communities. The tragedy of deaths due to overdose and the severe impacts the epidemic is having on quality of life impacts every region of the state and no one is immune from its reach.

The Opioid Harm Reduction Policy Package takes important steps to address barriers to harm reduction efforts with a focus on saving lives. It offers greater access to life saving naloxone as well as other prevention measures. It provides education to high risk/vulnerable populations and better reporting of Opioid data. Finally, it addresses much needed technical fixes to treatment access and protections for those reporting use/abuse. Importantly, it empowers law enforcement to provide additional support to those struggling with addiction without impacting our ability to hold drug traffickers accountable.

OSSA, OACP and ODAA strongly support the Opioid Harm Reduction Policy Package and we want to thank Representative Dexter for her good work to develop it. We believe HB 2395 A will save lives, enhance community safety, and improve the quality of life in Oregon's communities.