



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE

EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and
Community Safety Response

From: Chief Matt Scales, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: February 26, 2024

Re: Support for HB 4002 with Adoption of the Dash 24 Amendment
Addressing Oregon's Addiction and Fentanyl Overdose Crisis

Co-Chairs Lieber and Kropf and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Matt Scales. I am the Chief of Police for the City of McMinnville and I have the privilege of serving as the President of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Association. I'm here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to offer testimony in strong support of HB 4002 with adoption of the dash 24 amendment. Let me begin by thanking the members of this committee for your important work and for developing the comprehensive bipartisan proposal included in the dash 24 amendment to the measure.

Last fall Oregon's chiefs of police, sheriffs, district attorneys and city leaders offered a comprehensive set of recommendations to address this profound crisis. They included restoring law enforcement and prosecution tools necessary to address drug dealers and possession along with important investments in drug treatment and stabilization capacity. We believe the dash 24 to HB 4002 is a strong proposal and we fully support it. Our communities are crying out for help, and this dash 24 amendment demonstrates that you were listening.

Oregon's drug addiction and fentanyl overdose crisis is destroying lives, devastating families and eroding the safety and livability of our communities. There isn't a community anywhere in the state that isn't significantly impacted by the crisis and Oregonians are angry about what they see. They are looking to all of us to work together to aggressively address the crisis and we believe this bipartisan proposal is substantive and meaningful. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 1650 Oregonians

tragically lost their lives due to drug overdose between September 2022 and September of 2023. These are our family members...our friends...our community members.

Our law enforcement officers in our state are motivated by a desire to seek positive outcomes for those who struggle with severe addiction and behavioral health crisis. They are one of the primary touch points in our community with those who struggle with severe addiction, and they need the necessary tools to effectuate the most positive outcomes possible for those who are struggling and to keep our communities safe. We believe HB 4002 with the dash 24 amendment accomplishes these important objectives, and we are grateful that we were included in this important process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.