



## **OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

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

**From:** Sheriff Matt English, Hood River County  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**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 English. I am the Sheriff of Hood River County, and I am an Executive Board member for the Oregon State Sheriffs Association. On behalf of OSSA, I am here testifying in support of HB-4002 with the -24 amendments. I want to recognize and thank the members of the Committee for engaging OSSA at the table as we navigated the proposed language in the -24 amendment. The result shows a true partnership across both parties to address the drug addiction epidemic facing Oregon.

In the wake of BM 110 passing, the state of Oregon has seen a significant increase in overdose deaths in our communities, increasing crime related to drug addiction and a continued public narrative asking for a change in how we address this issue. OSSA took a strong position on what BM 110 reform should look like with the ultimate goal of being able to divert individuals into treatment and not jail while still holding them accountable. We have also stated several times that meaningful treatment cannot occur if there are no consequences to the use of illicit drugs.

We heard from stakeholders and local treatment providers repeatedly that in order to break the drug addiction cycle, a significant life changing event needs to occur before the individual will seek help. Sometimes that takes several attempts for the change to occur and not all change looks the same.

Proposed HB 4002 with the -24 amendments allows for partnerships in our communities to make meaningful changes to the addiction cycle. It provides much-needed resources our communities and partners need to implement diversion programs to affect that

change. Most importantly, it provides the accountability of community supervision, that will assist in navigating that change.

Evidence shows us that drug addiction must be treated differently. The Diversion programs already committed to by several County Sheriffs and District Attorney's follow evidence-based practices that address drug addiction in a unique way.

The Opioid Use Disorder Medication Grant Program will provide the funds necessary for County jails to stand up evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment, or MAT programs within their facilities. These programs are just another part of the treatment plan to address addiction in our community.

This proposed bill will do excellent work in our communities. It will provide the public safety our constituents expect and will make a significant difference in the addiction crisis in our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.