



# ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Written Testimony

**Committee:** Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

**Date:** February 27, 2024

Bill Number: HB 4002-18  
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Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Kropf, and members of the committee – for the last 27 years, I have been a police officer in the state of Oregon. After retiring from the Oregon State Police in February 2022, I assumed my new role as Chief of Police for the City of Ontario. I have extensive training involving impaired driving and substance abuse. In Oregon, I am the only Chief of Police certified and credentialed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police as a Drug Recognition Expert, which is a certification I have held since 1999. Albeit my testimony is specific to the dash 18 amendment.

Malheur County has unique challenges. With a population of approximately 31,313 and the majority of residents considered rural (59%), crime and poverty are no strangers to this border town. The community impacts (public health and public safety related) following BM 110 have been unconscionable.

To locally address mental health, substance use disorder, and overdose, organizations across Malheur County partnered with Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Office. The OSU Extension Office facilitated stakeholder conversations and partnerships to develop a “Community Response Plan.” Although our plan is still in draft form, action and data sets are forthcoming. The experience of having a community-focused improvement plan surrounding prevention and early detection; harm reduction; crisis and first response; and treatment and recovery was most beneficial.

I support the dash 18 amendment.

Thank you,

Chief Michael Iwai

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