

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Written Testimony of Rob Bovett
before the
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety
in favor of
House Bill 5005 and the Dash-1 Amendments

Dear Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, Senators Campos and Brock Smith, and Representatives Chotzen, Grayber, Helfrich, and Lewis,

For the record I'm Rob Bovett. I have been involved in drug policy at local, state, national, and international levels for a few decades, and currently teach Drug Law and Policy at Lewis & Clark Law School. My career has focused heavily on creating and implementing diversionary programs in our criminal justice system for people suffering from addiction or behavioral health issues. I also currently serve as Vice-Chair of your Criminal Justice Commission where we oversee many of those programs - although I speak only for myself this morning.

House Bill 5005, the CJC budget bill, deserves your strong support to continue the vital work and programs funded through CJC grants.

The Dash-1 Amendments to House Bill 5005, filed in OLIS along with this written testimony, also deserve your strong support. Those amendments would continue Current Service Level (CSL) funding for the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program (IMMEGP) for the next biennium, which is vital to address the influx of illicit drug cartel cannabis grows that continue to plague many parts of Oregon with environmental damage, violence and other community harm, as well as tragic labor trafficking.

The program was originally created in 2018 to fund basic enforcement grants to address the illicit market following the legalization of recreational marijuana in Oregon. However, with the more recent influx of illicit cartel operations and grows, the program was enhanced by the legislature to provide funding for expanded enforcement, as well as services for victims of labor trafficking. That enhanced program funding will run out if it does not receive continued funding. The Dash-1 Amendments will continue that critical funding at CSL.

I expect you will hear testimony from sheriffs and victim advocates in support of the Dash-1 amendments. I have also filed in OLIS along with this written testimony the most recent CJC Report to the legislature related to the program, showing its importance and efficacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning in support of House Bill 5005 and the Dash-1 Amendments.

Sincerely,

Rob Bovett
Adjunct Professor of Law
Drug Law and Policy
Lewis & Clark Law School
Drug Law & Policy Substack

NOTE: All information and comments above are my own. They do not reflect any official position of Lewis & Clark or any client.