



**OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**  
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

**To: Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety**

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

**Date:** February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Re: HB 5005 – Testimony in Support  
Oregon Criminal Justice Commission Budget (CJC)**

**Chair Evans, Chair Broadman and members of the committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Matt English and I am the Sheriff of Hood River County. I am speaking today on behalf of the **Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA)** in strong **support of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Budget Request**, which includes **full funding for several critical public safety programs and necessary supporting policy option packages** that will ensure the continuation of programs like Justice Reinvestment, medically assisted treatment in jails, and the recently implemented behavioral health deflection grant. These crucial investments allow local communities to implement **evidence-based programs** that address public safety and behavioral health challenges in a way that best serves their unique populations.

For more than a decade, Justice Reinvestment has been instrumental in reducing Oregon's reliance on prison beds, **saving taxpayer dollars**, and ensuring that local jurisdictions have the resources to respond effectively to public safety needs.

Expanding funding through **policy these policy option packages like 550BH with an additional \$40 million** will allow counties to further develop **community-based behavioral health deflection programs**, which have proven to reduce recidivism and **provide individuals with treatment and support rather than incarceration**. These investments **increase local control, improve long-term outcomes, and strengthen public safety**.

In the Columbia River Gorge where I serve, the impact of CJC's programs can be felt in nearly every corner of the justice system. This funding supports our regional restorative justice program, Justice Reinvestment, and medically assisted treatment in our regional jail. Historically, the IMPACTS Grant has supported our local warming shelter to give the unhoused needed respite from our harsh winters. Most recently the Behavioral Health

Deflection Grant has provided us with an opportunity to stand up a regional deflection program in partnership with Wasco County. This program is changing the landscape in our region, addressing an area impacting our communities more directly than ever. Personally, I haven't been more excited about a new public safety program like this in years.

These programs have made countless positive impacts to our respective jurisdictions in Oregon. Impacts that would not have been possible without the CJC and the programs they administer. Speaking for small Oregon counties that are resource poor, finding funding and standing up programs often seems insurmountable. Through the CJC's professional management, support and guidance, they have helped flip the script in many areas across the state that otherwise would likely have been impossible without their leadership.

Mr. Sanchagrin and his team are responsible, transparent and unbiased in their approach, while ensuring accountability from their grantees. In addition to providing grant funding, their statistical analysis and technical assistance is unparalleled, bolstering their position as a trusted and irreplaceable criminal justice partner. It is abundantly clear that the CJC team believes in their mission and their desire for locales to succeed is evident through their approach. I can think of no better steward of our precious taxpayer investments than the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

The Oregon State Sheriffs Association urges the Legislature to fully support the CJC budget request to continue the success of these programs across the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify about these critical programs.