



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307

To: Members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Chief Warren Hensman, Grants Pass Police Department
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: March 6, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 5029 – Oregon State Police Budget

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Warren Hensman. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Grants Pass, and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to speak in strong support of the Oregon State Police Budget as reflected in the Governor’s Recommended Budget.

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) enjoys a strong partnership with the Oregon State Police (OSP) that benefits citizens and communities throughout the State of Oregon. We share a commitment to policing and public safety that prioritizes service, excellence, integrity and justice. The Oregon State Police is a vital cornerstone of our public safety system, essential to providing the police services needed to ensure safe communities and protect our officers. Over the past few days, you have had an opportunity to hear about the range of programs and services that our law enforcement agencies depend on. They include the Criminal Investigations Division, Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), Firearms Instant Check System (FICS), Forensics Services Division and Patrol Services Division to name a few. Adequate funding for these services and programs ensures that Oregonians receive the justice they expect and allows for effective policing at the local level.

Oregon, like many states, faces an ongoing workforce shortage that affects various sectors of the economy. However, the need for law enforcement personnel is especially critical, as Oregon ranks at the very bottom in the nation for the number of sworn officers per thousand residents. More than 60 police agencies in the state operate with fewer than 10 sworn officers, often requiring police chiefs to balance patrol duties, emergency response, and department management.

Considering these challenges, the Oregon State Police (OSP) plays a crucial role in maintaining public safety statewide. Strong partnerships and daily collaboration with OSP are essential to ensuring that law enforcement duties and missions are effectively carried out across Oregon.

Equally important is the need for adequate funding to support the agency's critical functions and existing programs. These support services act as a force multiplier, enhancing the effectiveness of both OSP's sworn and non-sworn staff, as well as the partner agencies that rely on them.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to testify today.