

April 24, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the Subcommittee,

I write on behalf of the City of Gresham in strong support of SB 5032, the budget bill for the Department of Public Safety and Standards Training (DPSST).

DPSST provides mandatory training for all public safety disciplines, ensuring that our public safety officials meet specific standards and have the knowledge, skills, and certification necessary to carry out their critical disciplines.

The DPSST training program requires appropriate funding and resources to operate adequately and efficiently, as without the proper resources the training program can serve as a bottleneck that prevents public safety officers from joining the ranks in their respective communities. Over the last several years, DPSST eliminated the basic police training backlog through expanded course offerings in 2023 and 2024, which was a major issue for Gresham, as it slowed our ability to train and replace critical police officers. We are grateful for DPSST’s efforts in this area.

Yet without ongoing budgetary support, the training backlog could increase again. In Gresham, we continue to see police officers retire more quickly than we can replace them, and while we have heavily invested in our recruitment efforts, it remains difficult to adequately recruit and train new public safety officers. This issue would be exacerbated if monthlong delays were to occur in the training program.

That’s why we strongly support DPSST’s requested budget, which will ensure that our communities continue to have the public safety officers we need and deserve. We encourage you to support SB 5032 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Schmidt
City Manager