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PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Sheriff Lane Magill, Wasco County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: HB 4096 - Testimony in Support
Aggravated Felon in Possession of a Firearm

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Sheriff Lane Magill. I serve as the Sheriff of Wasco County and as President of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association. I am here today on behalf of both the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to express our strong support for House Bill 4096.

HB 4096 creates the crime of aggravated felon in possession of a firearm by focusing on the most dangerous and high-risk circumstances involving prohibited persons and firearms. The bill applies when a person with a felony conviction possesses three or more firearms, or when a person commits felon in possession of a firearm and has prior convictions for the same offense. In those situations, the measure appropriately elevates the crime classification to reflect the increased risk to public safety.

From a law enforcement perspective, this bill is narrowly targeted and rooted in real-world experience. Sheriffs' deputies and police officers regularly encounter individuals who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms but who nonetheless stockpile weapons or repeatedly violate existing law. These cases present heightened dangers, not only to the public, but also to victims, witnesses, and first responders.

HB 4096 does not create a new prohibition on firearm ownership for law-abiding Oregonians. Instead, it strengthens accountability for individuals who have already lost the legal right to possess firearms due to serious criminal conduct and who demonstrate an elevated risk through repeated violations or the accumulation of multiple firearms. The bill preserves existing relief provisions and does not disturb established pathways for the restoration of rights where appropriate.

Importantly, HB 4096 provides prosecutors and courts with a proportional and graduated enforcement tool. It recognizes that not all felon-in-possession cases are the same and allows the justice system to distinguish between isolated conduct and patterns that indicate a greater likelihood of future violence. This distinction is critical to public safety, deterrence, and the credibility of the criminal justice system.

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police believe HB 4096 will help prevent violent crime, intervene before dangerous situations escalate, and better protect Oregon communities, while remaining consistent with constitutional principles and existing Oregon law.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for HB 4096.