



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

I have a few short updates for you as the legislative session moves along:

In addition to our support for funding bills ([HB 2231](#) and [HB 2211](#)) we urge you to be aware of HB 1445, which is a “holdover” bill from last year. This is the bill that would create “consent decree” authority for the State Attorney General. [Here](#) is our letter of opposition and [here](#) is a statement of opposition Marysville Chief Erik Scairpon sent. I am sharing the letter with his permission. Both contain good information for you to use with your community, local elected leaders, and of course your legislators. The bottom line is that our state should focus on fully funding law enforcement, improving staffing, and encouraging accreditation initiatives. Let’s put tax dollars to work improving law enforcement, not taxpayers paying for government lawyers suing other government lawyers, all while we remain last in the nation in law enforcement staffing. Speaking of staffing, the funding bills continue to be “laying there” with no clear indication the decision makers in Olympia will do anything for staffing assistance. Stay tuned.

Second, by now you likely are aware that despite our concerns, the Byrne/JAG process has removed much needed funding for local drug task forces, while fentanyl overdoses rise. The good news is there continues to be communication with key legislators about backfilling those funds legislatively through budget provisos which would be part of the final budget before the end of the session in early March.

Finally, as many of you are struggling with getting corrections staff into timely training to catch up with shortages (we are aware of delays of many months and years for Corrections Officers Academy - COA slots), we have worked closely with the Criminal Justice training commission (CJTC). We have sent out this [letter](#) to legislators supporting additional funding for COA classes to be moved up (possibly within weeks of the end of the session in early March) and to create flexibility for them to possibly be placed regionally around the state in conjunction with existing regional BLEA academies. These decisions would be made by the CJTC but we are doing all we can to get the funding and move up this critical training for your local jail staff. Also, the WASPC Corrections Committee, following a discussion among jail managers, voted at our last conference to commit to providing trainers as necessary to help accomplish this increase in capacity. This issue is getting attention.

Thanks, have a good week and stay safe- Steve

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington