



WASHINGTON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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August 11, 2026

To: Sheriff Keith Swank
From: Washington State Sheriffs' Association
RE: Letter of Support

Sheriff Keith Swank,

As you are already aware, the Sheriffs of Washington State and the voters who elect them are under attack. The recent passage of SB 5974, under the guise of modernization and accountability, by the Washington State Legislature sets qualifications on who can run for Sheriff, eliminating many otherwise potentially fantastic candidates and leaders from even being able to file for office. It designates the Washington State Patrol as the entity to conduct background investigations and pronounce candidates fit to run for the Office of Sheriff. It also allows for an elected Sheriff to automatically be removed from office by an unelected board if they fail to maintain their certification.

The Washington State Sheriff's Association also believes the creation of "charter" counties has essentially the same effect and especially converting and ousting a duly elected office holder mid-term.

The Washington State Sheriffs Association strongly supports the continued election of our County Sheriffs. The accountability and responsiveness of an elected Sheriff is critical to public safety and trust in our communities. Sheriffs are, and should remain, directly accountable to the people.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Mark Crider

509-524-5409

President, Washington State Sheriffs' Association

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