



## Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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March 25, 2013

Re: Opposition to HB 2548, Bail Bonds

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Oregon District Attorneys Association strongly opposes the return of the bail bonds system to Oregon.

1. The creation of a government/court operated security release system in 1973 has been and continues to be very successful. Judges and court trained release officers make release decisions designed to protect the public and guarantee appearance by those charged with crime(s). To the extent Oregon has too many "failures to appear", having bail bonds would do nothing to reduce this rate. The primary reason for failures to appear in Oregon is the lack of a jail sanction which is the result of jail capacity issues. Having bail bonds does nothing to increase jail capacity.
2. This bail bonds legislation is not about public safety--it is about insurance companies making a profit. There is nothing wrong with making a profit but in this case who are the customers? The customers are people charged with crimes and most of them are poor. The "good risks" for release--that is those people who will appear--should not have to pay for a bail bond. They should be released on their promise to appear as happens with our security release system. These are the people the bail bonds companies will be targeting.
3. Police officers--not bail recovery agents--should arrest people who are charged with crimes and fail to appear. Police officers have far more training to properly make arrests than bail recovery agents would have under the bail bonds bill. Arresting someone denies them of their freedom and should be done only by a government employee specially trained to do so. That is, a police officer.

Sincerely,

Doug Harclerod



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