

**Samuel A. Kubernick**

2822 SE Pardee Street, Portland, OR 97202

(M) 971.400.5863

SamuelAK@gmail.com

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Dear Senator:

I am an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) with the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). I am proud to have served with the agency for over five years, and am truly honored and privileged to serve this great state and its citizens.

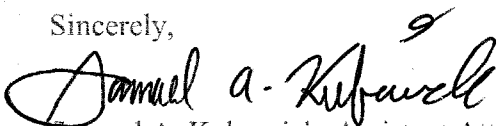
I spent the first four of my years at DOJ in the agency's Appellate Division, where I handled a broad range of appeals in which the state was a party. A large portion of my caseload consisted of defending criminal convictions and sentences. I represented the state in criminal appeals involving child sex offenses, domestic violence-related assaults, and other serious crimes. My work also included representing the Department of Human Services in parents' appeals from trial court judgments terminating their parental rights. In those difficult cases, I ensured that the children at issue became legally free, and able to start safe, healthy lives with loving adoptive families.

About a year ago, I transferred to the Trial Division. My work now centers on defending the state in various collateral challenges to criminal convictions. The cases that I handle involve very serious crimes including murder, and I strive to uphold the convictions and sentences that this state's fine prosecutors work so hard to obtain. I also represent the state at hearings before the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB), hearings which involve offenders who have been adjudged "guilty but for insanity." The focus of those hearings is often on offenders' requests to be released from the Oregon State Hospital, or to be completely discharged from PSRB supervision.

I urge you to support HB 2449, and bring AAGs in line with Deputy District Attorneys, who are statutorily barred from striking and must submit labor disputes to arbitration. Much like the work of Deputy District Attorneys, the work that AAGs perform has a very strong public safety component. A labor strike or work slowdown would be devastating for the public safety. It makes good sense to require AAGs to remain working, with the knowledge that labor disputes will be resolved fairly and objectively through arbitration.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Samuel A. Kubernick, Assistant Attorney General  
Board Member, Oregon Association of Justice Attorneys