

Testimony Regarding HB 2117

February 4, 2013
Judiciary Committee
HR 343 - 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Barker, Members of the Committee:

My name is Miki Mace. I am an Alcohol & Drug Evaluation Specialist (A.D.E.S.) and business owner in Lane County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2117.

I have over 25 years of experience in working with clients who have substance abuse issues—the past four years with DUII offenders and marijuana clients who are referred from the eight courts within Lane County. As an ADES, I receive no public funding. Prior to my company being awarded the ADES contract, the work was conducted through Lane County Mental Health. Lane County Mental Health realized that the funds collected from offenders did not and could not support the staff and expenditures of keeping their doors open.

Four years into this work—without an ADES fee increase—it is clear to me why Lane County Mental Health found it impossible to continue. I have experienced increases in the following areas over the past four years: (1) water and electric bills, (2) office space, (3) employee salaries, (4) employee benefits, (5) office supplies, (6) insurance premiums, (7) equipment purchases and rentals, (8) worker's compensation premiums, (9) employment taxes, and (10) postage. I have, also, experienced a dramatic decline in court referrals as Lane County continues to struggle with Law Enforcement levies and staff reductions in both the District Attorney and Court offices.

ADES's are a vital link between the courts, the offenders, and the treatment facilities. We diligently monitor offenders to help insure their success in treatment, to protect the safety of the community, and to insure that clients meet their judicial obligations. Lane County ADES's are required to attend Diversion Hearings one day per week and to respond to Parole Violation subpoena's a second day per week. In January of 2012, Lane County ADES's were appointed to carrying out the provisions specified in ORS 2011, Chapter 671, Section 2(8). We are the recipients of the IID installation reports and the link between the offender, the IID installers, the IID manufacturer representatives, and the judicial system. Often, this is a tedious and time-consuming process.

At this time, offenders pay a lifetime fee of \$150.00. HB 2117 increases the ADES fee \$275.00. I respectfully request your support of this bill and of the work of all ADES's across the State.

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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