

March 6, 2013

Re: Support for SB 635

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc. supports SB 635 because it is very important to have a complete and accurate record of trials and other hearings in Aggravated Murder cases.

As you know, Aggravated Murder has the potential of a death sentence or life in prison without the possibility of parole. As close to a perfect record as possible should be the standard and is best achieved with a "live" court reporter. These cases are almost always appealed if there is a guilty verdict so the perfect transcript is needed on appeal. Trial lawyers may also need portions of transcript on an overnight basis and having a reporter capable of producing the transcript is very helpful.

While it may cost more to have a certified reporter for Aggravated Murder cases than the standard audio recording, the additional cost is worth it because of the serious nature of the proceedings.

Sincerely,

Doug Harclerod

Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.