

February 10, 2014

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am here today in support of HB 4026.

My name is Miki Mace. I am the owner and Executive Director of Quality Research Evaluation & Referral Services in Lane County. I am certified by Oregon Health Authority as an Alcohol & Drug Evaluation Specialist (ADES) My staff and I conduct DUII and Marijuana evaluations for the courts in Lane County; including Lane County Circuit Court, Central Lane Justice Court and the Municipal courts of Eugene, Springfield, Florence, Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Oakridge.

Sally Penna has outlined specific components of the ADES position and how we intertwine with the courts, treatment providers, clients, and attorneys. It is a crucial role that requires accuracy, collaboration, prompt communication, and skill.

Since January of 2012 our office has monitored Ignition Interlock Devices for Lane County Circuit Court. At present, the Municipal Courts have elected to instruct defendants to install IID's in their vehicles but without a monitoring function in place there is no safety net to insure that the orders of the courts are followed. In other words, most individuals in Lane County are on the honor system. After observing the current system for two years, I find that the system is fatally flawed.

HB 4026 serves to close a number of the loopholes that currently exist in the IID requirements and reporting functions. Under this bill, there is a systematic approach for monitoring installation, managing negative results, and reporting. The Bill offers uniformity for the courts, treatment agencies, defense attorneys, and prosecutors. It also offers much-needed guidelines and timelines so that individuals who are required to install these devices know specifically what they need to do. I see this bill as a useful tool to improve community safety, provide guidelines, clarify requirements, and strengthen accountability.

I am aware that HB 4026 places additional challenges on ADES's throughout the state but that is not the issue at hand today. I'm confident that the Legislature will continue to value the role and increasing responsibility of ADEs and to support future legislation effecting our positions.

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