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**Testimony Regarding SB 5506
Criminal Justice Commission Budget
Before the Joint Sub-Committee on Public Safety
February 9th, 2015**

Co-Chairs Shields and Williamson, and members of the Sub-Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center (OLC), I submit this testimony to thank you for your leadership in passage of 2013's HB 3194, and to respectfully request your support of funding for the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to fully implement the policies and principles underlying that bill. Passage of HB 3194 was an important first step towards prioritizing community-based crime prevention, victim services, and treatment programs as critical aspects of our public safety system. The necessary next step in actualizing the vision of HB 3194 is to ensure adequate funding for those priority investments.

As you know, the Oregon Law Center (OLC) is a non-profit law firm whose mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities of Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. An increasing number of our clients need civil legal assistance as a result of having been victimized by domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The availability and accessibility of local crime prevention, victim safety, and treatment services is of critical importance to our clients and our communities. Without access to such services, crime survivors are more likely to find themselves and their children trapped in a perpetual cycle of violence, trauma, and poverty.

During the last biennium, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission allocated \$15 million in funds to counties to begin to implement needed services and sanctions at the local level. These programs will take time to evaluate, adjust, and become truly effective at reducing crime and victimization. Funding for these programs in the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's budget at \$58.5 million for the 2015-2017 biennium is necessary to ensure adequate continued investments in the local infrastructure of services necessary to effectively prevent crime and ensure safety.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to make Justice Reinvestment in Oregon a success.