



## Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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March 23, 2015

Senate Judiciary Committee Members  
Joint Ways and Means Committee Members

Re: Support for judicial cost of living increases-SB 446

Dear Committee Members,

The Oregon District Attorneys Association supports incremental cost of living raises for Oregon judges as provided for in Senate Bill 446. Over many years we have watched judicial salaries fall below an acceptable level and then eventually the legislature makes an upward salary adjustment that seems large but is not much more than a cost of living catch up. This problem can be remedied by providing an annual cost of living adjustment through SB 446.

Earlier this session I testified in front of the Public Safety Sub-Committee of the Ways and Means Committee when they were hearing public testimony about the Judicial Departments Budget. In essence, I described the importance of recruiting and retaining the best lawyers to become judges in Oregon and that the current salary of around \$125,000 is insufficient to get many lawyers to apply or run for office. Raising the base salary now and implementing the incremental cost of living increases provided for in SB 446 will go a long way towards retaining and recruiting top quality judges for Oregon. As a practicing lawyer for about 40 years, I expect and know the importance of having the best lawyers become judges.

The Oregon District Attorneys Association urges your support of Senate Bill 446.

Sincerely,

Doug Harclerod  
Executive Director

