

**HOUSE BILL 2339**  
**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 12, 2015**  
**PRESENTED BY: JOSHUA NASBE, OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

The Oregon Judicial Department requested House Bill 2339 to provide express statutory authority for the court to appoint an interpreter for a victim of crime who seeks to exercise, during a court proceeding, a right granted to the victim by section 42 or 43 of the Oregon Constitution. These rights include “the right to be present at...any critical stage of the proceeding held in open court when the defendant will be present.” Current statutory law requires the court to appoint an interpreter for a party or a witness or when necessary to assist the court. House Bill 2339 expands these requirements to include victims of crime who are in need of an interpreter and seek to meaningfully exercise the right to be present.

House Bill 2339 passed on the House floor by a vote of 56 to 1.

**Section Analysis**

Section 1 applies definitions from the victims’ rights statutes to the laws related to the appointment of interpreters.

Section 2 requires the court to appoint an interpreter for a victim of crime with limited English proficiency who wishes to exercise a constitutional right granted to the victim. Section 2 also clarifies that a fee may not be charged for the appointment of a foreign language interpreter appointed by the court. This clarification is consistent with federal law, state law related to persons with a hearing or speaking impairment, and Oregon Judicial Department policy.

Section 3 requires the court to appoint an interpreter for a victim of crime with a hearing impairment who wishes to exercise a constitutional right granted to the victim.

Sections 4 and 5 contain conforming amendments.

Section 6 applies the above-described rules of law to juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Sections 7 and 8 contain an emergency clause and apply the amendments in the bill prospectively.

Thank you for your time and for considering our proposal.