

**Statement in Support of HB 4145
On behalf of the Oregon State Bar**

February 4, 2016

The Oregon State Bar supports a fair and impartial judicial branch made up of the most well-versed lawyers available, and believes that maintaining appropriate judicial compensation is an important element in maintaining such a court.

The judicial branch is essential to the competent and effective enforcement of the rule of law. Having fair, impartial, and experienced judges helps ensure the best outcomes for individuals and businesses using our courts, and helps keep overall court costs down by making sure the process runs smoothly.

Adequate judicial compensation is critical to attract the most qualified lawyers with adequate litigation experience to the bench and to retain them after appointment or election. This especially is the case for lawyers in private practice, whose salaries generally are higher than the salaries of lawyers in the public sector. A bench with a mix of attorneys from the private and public sectors is the most desirable to maintain a mix of backgrounds and experience. While no judicial salaries anywhere in the country currently compete with those of successful private practitioners, judicial compensation at least must be high enough to interest and retain successful lawyers who are inclined to public service.

Judicial compensation is a reflection of the esteem in which we hold the judicial branch. Setting judicial salaries at levels comparable to judges in other states is a simple and effective method of ensuring that judicial salaries keep up with the rest of the legal profession. The bar asks that you support HB 4145.