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December 14, 2018

To: Chair Prozanski, Chair Barker, and Members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees
From: Carla C. Piluso, State Representative, House District 50
RE: Post-Conviction DNA Testing

For the record my name is Carla Piluso, and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham.

Our topic today is post-conviction DNA testing. The last time I was in front of this committee, I was speaking about my work with the Joint Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kit Task Force. I am proud to be part of the team that worked tirelessly to end the rape kit backlog. By testing every kit, we are able to identify perpetrators and bring justice to victims.

At first glance, post-conviction DNA testing might seem like a completely separate issue. Post-conviction testing can identify wrongful convictions, and bring justice to *defendants*.

But I see these two issues as sides of the same coin. Whether victim or defendant, prosecutor or defense, justice is about finding the truth. As a former police officer, I know that law enforcement does—on a rare occasion—make mistakes. And in order to ensure our system is fair, we must make it possible to rectify those errors.

I am excited to work with Senator Thatcher and the Innocence Project on legislation to streamline Oregon's DNA testing statute and making testing more accessible for the wrongly accused. The testimony you will hear today will give an overview of Oregon's statute and how we can take action to improve it.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
State Representative, House District 50