



Legislative Testimony

Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

March 14 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee, Members

RE: House Bill 2345 – testimony in support

Dear Chair Barker and Members,

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is an organization of attorneys who represent juveniles and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, juvenile delinquency proceedings, adult criminal prosecutions and appeals, and civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of HB 2345.

OCDLA supports the recommendations of the Task Force on Legal Representation in Childhood Dependency and the statutory changes in HB 2345. These changes will improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child dependency system throughout Oregon.

OCDLA is particularly excited with the prospect that the Parent Child Representation Program currently piloted in three counties will be expanded statewide. The national consensus is clear that high quality and consistent legal representation for parents and children is necessary to ensure that those parties can navigate and meaningfully participate in dependency proceedings. Initial results from the PCRCP pilot in Linn, Yamhill and Columbia county show that fewer children are placed into foster care, and children are reunited with their parents or made more timely moves toward permanent adoption or placement with a guardian. In short, adequately funded representation of parents and children results in more just results.

OCDLA is pleased to support these recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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