

To: Presiding Officers, Oregon Legislative Assembly
Re: Support for SB 11 & HB 2636 (Judicial Compensation)
Date: February 1, 2017

Dear Senate President Courtney & House Speaker Kotek:

We write this letter to you fully aware of the challenging economic environment in which we find ourselves. Despite the undeniable challenges, we support adequate pay for judges and the use of SB 11 or HB 2636 to accomplish that goal.

With your leadership, we have made progress on judicial compensation in recent years but we have not yet reached the median pay level for Oregon's judges. The passage of either bill would be the last important step needed to fund judicial salaries at levels adequate to maintain a strong, diverse and competent Bench. This is not a new funding request. This is the last in a series of requests from the OJD for moderately adequate pay for judges. It is a request that would enable that branch of government to continue providing justice services at the current level.

SB 11 and HB 2636 reflect a thoughtful, structured plan to increase judicial pay to the median level of those serving in comparable positions in comparable states. The identical bills were introduced in each chamber to provide flexibility in how we move this important plan forward. Let's take the final step this session.

It is extraordinarily important for Oregonians in all walks of life to have a highly-qualified and experienced judiciary. Appropriate salaries are necessary to attract the best and brightest lawyers to judicial service and also to retain the many exceptional judges we now have.


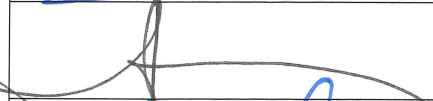
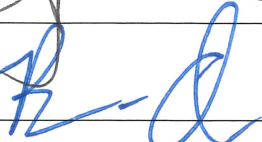

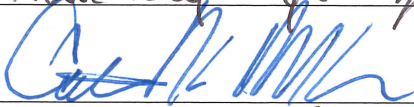
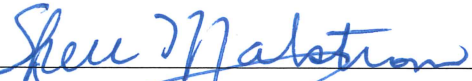

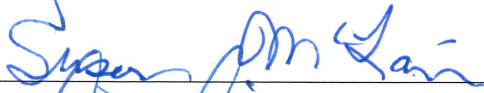
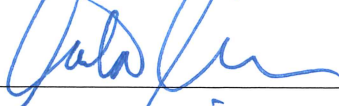
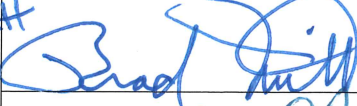
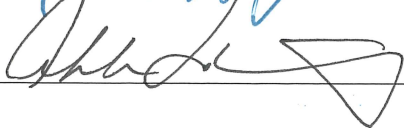
Oregon's trial court judges are among the lowest paid judges in all U.S. states, consistently ranking between 44th and 50th.¹ The COLA that was added for judicial salaries in 2015, while important to not lose ground to inflation, will not address inequities that have developed over time. More than 100 lawyers in the Department of Justice can make more than a circuit court judge, and the Deputy Attorney General makes \$30,000 per year more than the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. It is increasingly difficult to recruit seasoned and accomplished lawyers with civil and family law backgrounds.

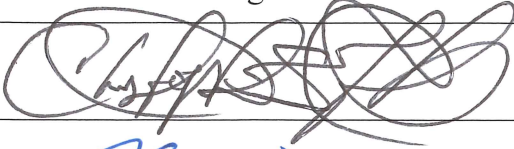

Oregonians deserve and have a right to expect an experienced, high-caliber Bench. Increasing judicial salaries is good common sense administration, adequately compensating judges who serve the public in every county of the state. Doing so over a period of years is a fiscally prudent and thoughtful way to ultimately achieve adequate judicial compensation.


Please join us in supporting SB 11 and HB 2636.

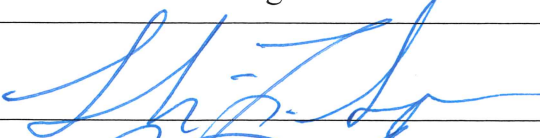
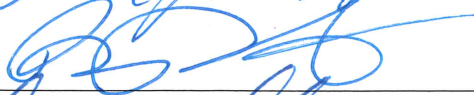
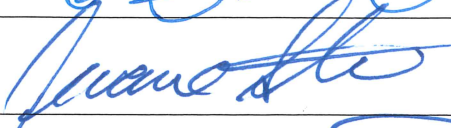
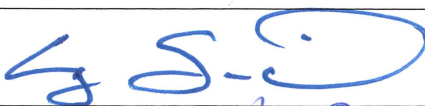
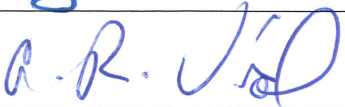

Signatures are on attached signature pages

¹ <http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/Judicial%20Salaries/Judicial-Salary-Tracker-October-2016.ashx>

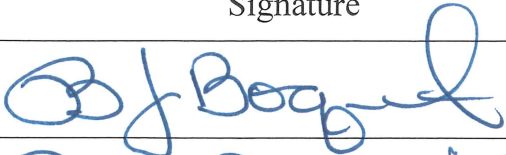
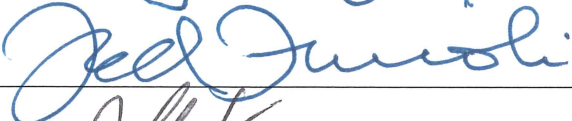
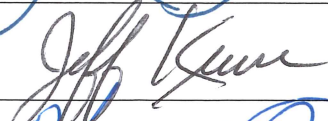
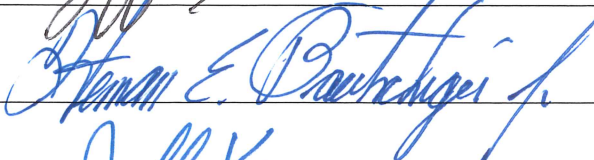

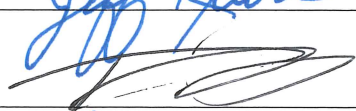
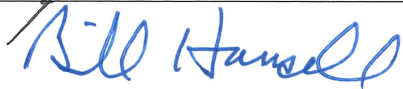
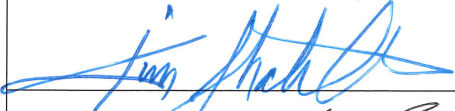

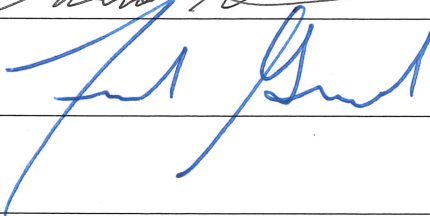
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|  | Jennifer Williamson |
|  | Brian Clev |
| Margaret Doherty | Margaret Doherty |
| Alissa King-Casper  | |
|  | REP CASSIDY McKeown |
| Ken Helm | KEN HELM |
|  | SHERI MACSTROM |
|  | ANNA Sander |
| Jeff Barker | JEFF BARKER |
|  | SUSAN McLAIN |
|  | Carla C. Puro |
| John Lively | John Lively |
| Brad with  | Jeff Reardon ^{Jeff Reardon} |
| Paul Holvey | Paul Holvey |
|  | Ann Linger |

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|  | CHRISTOPHER J. GORSEK |
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|  | Cliff Bantz |
|  | Mark Johnson |
|  | Gene Whisnant |
|  | Knute Buehler |
|  | MIKE NEARMAN |
|  | Carl Wilson |
|  | Ron Noble |
|  | Sal Esquivel |
|  | Cecile Hayden |
|  | E. Werner Reschke |
|  | JOHN E. HUFFMAN |

| Signature | Printed Name |
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|  | SHERRIE SPRENGEN |
|  | Bill Post |
|  | Duane Stark |
|  | Greg Smith |
|  | Rich Vial |
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| Arnie Roblan | Arnie Roblan |
| K. A. Taylor | KATHLEEN TAYLOR |
| Sara A. Sear | SARA BELSER |
| Flora | Flora Kozarshi |
| Lee Beyer | Lee Beyer |
| Rod Monroe | Rod Monroe |
| Chuck Riley | Chuck Riley |
| Ginny Burdick | Ginny Burdick |
| James I. Manning Jr | James I Manning Jr |
| Lew Frederick | LEW FREDERICK |
| Michael Dombrow | Michael Dombrow |
| Elizabeth Steiner Hayward | Elizabeth Steiner Hayward |
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|  | SEN BRIAN BOQUIST |
|  | SEN. TED FERRIOLI |
|  | sen. Jeff Kruse |
|  | Sen Herman Bertschinger |
|  | Jeff Kruse |
|  | Sen. Tim Knopp |
|  | Sen. Bill HANSEL |
|  | Sen Kim Thatcher |
|  | Sen Chuck Thomsen |
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