



Vote "Aye" on Recording Grand Jury Proceedings SB 505

Sen. Jeff Keene
Brian Boquist SEN

From the Desk of
Senator Brian Boquist

Integrity and Transparency:

Victims, witnesses, defendants, jurors, and the public must have faith in the integrity of their criminal justice system. Secrecy breeds suspicion and mistrust while transparency promotes faith and respect, positive public safety outcomes, in and of themselves.

Fairness and Balance:

Oregon's current grand jury laws favor district attorneys with exclusive access to critical facts while simultaneously depriving the accused of that access. A fair and balanced justice system affords both parties equal access to critical evidence. Oregon's current laws gives district attorneys a decided power advantage in negotiating criminal charges and in litigating cases in open court.

Nationally Recognized Best Practice:

It has been the national norm since the 1980's to electronically record grand jury testimony. Oregon is unique among the states in relying on an 1863 statute asking a grand juror to take handwritten notes. Verbatim recordation is simply a recognized best practice that serves the best interests of all participants: the government, witnesses, defendants, courts, and jurors.

Please vote "aye" on SB 505 for grand jury recordation.

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