

**Testimony in Support of HB 4096  
Before the House Committee On Judiciary**

February 8, 2018

Chair Barker and members of the committee:

My name is Vanessa Nordyke, I'm the President of the Oregon State Bar. On behalf of the OSB Board of Governors I would like to express my support for HB 4096.

The Oregon State Bar is committed to supporting a strong and independent judiciary. Keeping the judicial branch strong includes many variables, but one that is in need of attention is the matter of judicial compensation.

The judicial branch is essential to the competent and effective enforcement of the rule of law. Adequate judicial salaries are crucial to attract competent lawyers to the bench, and to retain them after appointment or election. This is especially the case for lawyers in private practice, whose salaries are generally higher than the salaries of lawyers in the public sector. A bench with a mix of attorneys from the private and public sectors is preferable in order to maintain a mix of backgrounds and experience. Judicial salaries must at least be high enough to interest and retain successful lawyers who are inclined to public service.

Judicial salaries are a reflection of the esteem in which we hold the judicial branch. While HB 4096 does not get Oregon all the way to where it needs to be, it is an important step to maintaining the strong and independent judiciary that Oregon deserves.

Respectfully Submitted,



Vanessa A. Nordyke  
2018 OSB President