

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 44<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup> 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.

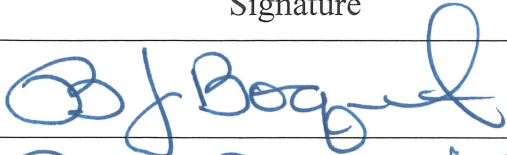
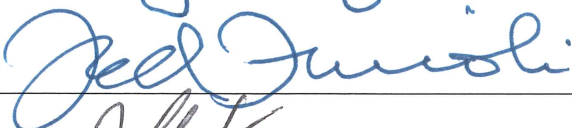

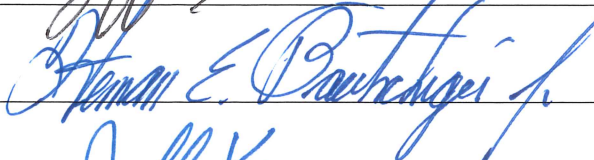

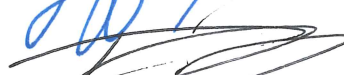
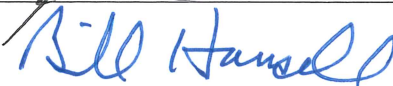


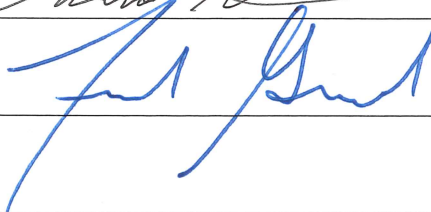
Please join us in supporting SB 11 and HB 2636.


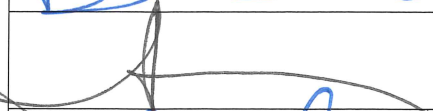
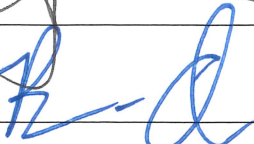

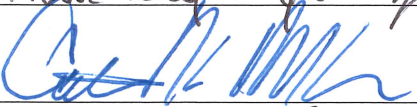
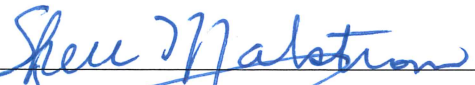

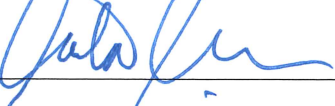

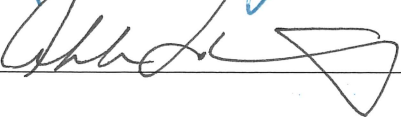
\*Signatures are on attached signature pages\*

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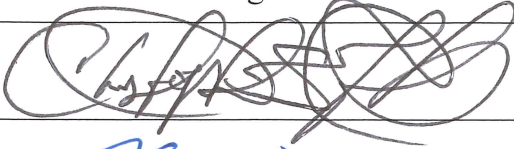

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/Judicial%20Salaries/Judicial-Salary-Tracker-October-2016.ashx>









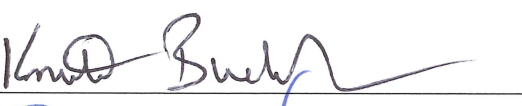

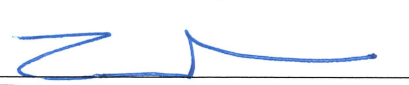


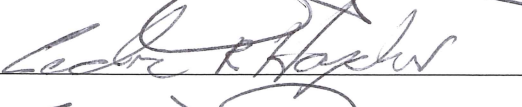
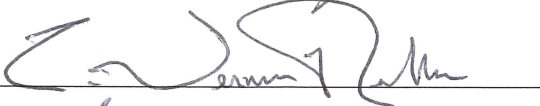

Signature	Printed Name
Arnie Roblan	Arnie Roblan
K. A. Taylor	KATHLEEN TAYLOR
Sara A. Sear	SARA SELSER
Flora	Flora Kozarshi
Lee Beyer	Lee Beyer
Rod Monroe	Rod Monroe
Chuck Riley	Chuck Riley
Ginny Burdick	Ginny Burdick
James I. Manning Jr	James I Manning Jr
Lew Frederick	LEW FREDERICK
Michael Dombrow	Michael Dombrow
Elizabeth Steiner Hayward	Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

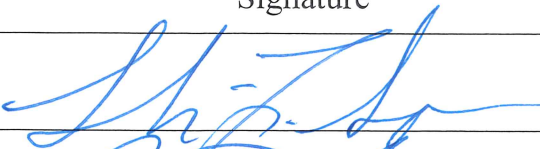

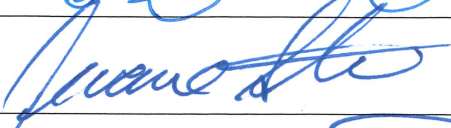
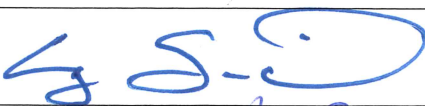
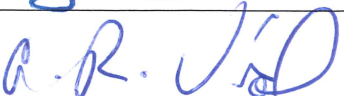

Signature	Printed Name
	SEN BRIAN BOQUIST
	SEN. TED FERRIOLI
	sen. Jeff Kruse
	Sen Herman Bertschinger
	Jeff Kruse
	Sen. Tim Knopp
	Sen. Bill HANSEL
	Sen Kim Thatcher
	Sen Chuck Thomson
	Sen Fred GIROD

Signature	Printed Name
	DAN Royfield
	Jennifer Williamson
	Brian Cien
Margaret Doherty	Margaret Doherty
Alissa King-Casper 	
	REP COADY McKeown
Ken Helm	KEN HELM
	SHERI MACSTROM
	ANNA Sander
Jeff Barker	JEFF BARKER
Susan Mc Lain	SUSAN Mc LAIN
	Carla C. Puro
John Lively	John Lively
Brad with 	Jeff Reardon <sup>Jeff Reardon</sup>
Paul Holvey	Paul Holvey
	Ann Linger



Signature	Printed Name
	CHRISTOPHER J. GORSEK
	Karin Power

Signature	Printed Name
	ANDY OLSON
	Dallas Heard
	Jodi Hack
	Greg Barreto
	David Brock Smith
	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
	SHERRIE SPRENGEL
	Bill Post
	Duane Stark
	Greg Smith
	Rich Vial
	Eric Kennedon