



Legislative Testimony

Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Representative Andy Olson, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary, Members

RE: HB 4096: Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Williamson and Olson, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is an association of attorneys who represent juveniles and adults in delinquency, dependency, criminal prosecutions, appeals, civil commitment and post-conviction relief proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of HB 4096.

As an organization comprised of criminal defense lawyers, we support our system partners. Judges play a vital role in the healthy functioning of the criminal justice system, and they are heavily relied upon to make incredibly important decisions.

HB 4096 underscores the conversation we need to continue to have surrounding what it means to adequately fund all pieces of the criminal justice system, including the bench as well as public defense attorneys and defense providers.

Given the important roles of all players, the underfunding of the judiciary indicates the imbalance that currently exists in the system as a whole. The bench and the defense are significantly under-resourced in comparison to the prosecution, and the time is now for the state to address this imbalance.

Respectfully,

Mary A. Sofia

For questions or comments contact Mary A. Sofia, OSB # 111401
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