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February 13, 2018

House Committee on Judiciary
C/O Chair Jeff Barker,
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4149

Chair Barker & Committee Members,

As you know, HB 4149 restricts what terms can be negotiated in criminal cases. Bad results for Oregonians will occur if you take away the discretion of judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors to carefully fashion settlements in criminal cases. This bill takes away a defendant's ability to leverage the waiver of certain rights; rights that could be leveraged to obtain shorter sentences or dismissal of certain counts.

The negotiation program outlined in HB 4149 will result in more trials, and more petitions for post conviction relief. Removing the discretion of defendants and prosecutors may ultimately result in increased sentences for defendants. The passage of this bill will certainly result in greater costs to the Oregon taxpayer.

Please vote no on HB 4149.

Thank you,

Doug Marteeny
Linn County District Attorney