

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel ("OADC"), which represents approximately 600 civil defense lawyers, we would like to offer our support of HB 2238 and HB 2239.

OADC has consistently believed that the salaries for judges in Oregon need to be increased in order to attract the most qualified and talented members of the Bar to judicial positions. HB 2238, in tying State judge salaries to a designated percentage of Federal trial judges, makes good sense, and we believe would help to promote the judiciary and also advance the interests of the civil Bar.

OADC also supports the passage of HB 2239, which adds fourteen additional trial judges throughout the State. Not only would passage of this bill help to meet the timelines in child welfare cases; but also, it would help to relieve docket time and free up more judicial capacity for civil litigants.

If you would like further testimony from any of our members regarding the importance of the passage of these bills to civil practitioners here in Oregon, we would be happy to offer testimony.

Thank you for your service and consideration of OADC's input on these bills.

Government Affairs Committee Members

George Pitcher – President, OADC Lloyd Bernstein Dan Schanz Mary-Anne Rayburn Vicki Smith Molly Marcum Rocky Dallum (Lobbyist)