

March 28, 2019

Oregon State Legislature House Committee on Judiciary

Re: HB2244-2: CourtCare Bill

Dear Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and Members of the Community:

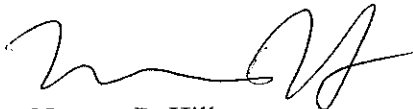
I am writing in support of HB2244-2 CourtCare Bill. My comments in this letter reflect my personal opinion and are not to be construed as a position of the Oregon Judicial Department.

I currently serve as presiding Judge in Polk County Circuit Court. In that capacity I see firsthand the dramatic impact CourtCare has on our court process. Since CourtCare was implemented the number of children you see in the courtroom has dropped dramatically. These children are not subjected to testimony and descriptions of violent and traumatic events. They are not exposed to conflict within their families. More importantly, the people who come to court are not having to worry about simultaneously presenting their case while also taking care of their children.

It is my understanding that our Polk County program alone has served over 1,100 children in the last year.

This small investment by the state in the program has yielded significant dividends for our small community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Norman R. Hill
Presiding Judge Polk County Circuit Court