

From: [Alycia Edgeworth Kersey](#)
To: [JWMPS Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 5513, Oregon Judicial Dept Budget
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 1:14:22 PM

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Jackie Winters
The Honorable Carla Piluso
Co-chairs, Public Safety Subcommittee

RE: SB 5513 Oregon Judicial Department Budget

I am writing to ask that you fully fund the Oregon Judicial Department (SB 5513).

I serve as indigent defense counsel in Klamath County, Oregon, assigned to represent primarily alleged mentally ill and chemically dependent folks who are justice involved. I am defense counsel for two of our local treatment courts: Adult Low and High Risk Drug Court, presided over by the Honorable W. Dan Bunch, as well as Behavioral Intervention Court, presided over by the Honorable Roxanne Osborne. I also represent those charged with other crimes, from low level misdemeanors to homicides and measure 11s.

My clients are the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. They are the people of Oregon who need the most help.

My clients are the most important actor in the judicial system. If the door to justice is barred to these people, the cost to our communities increase exponentially. If we are unable to help them, we are unable to help ourselves.

Our courthouse is the side upon which my bread is buttered. Our court staff is unyieldingly accommodating, and our judges are fair, thoughtful and thorough. I can always guarantee to my clients that they will be treated respectfully, generously and with the care that they deserve as their cases are adjudicated.

Evidence based research shows that serving more than three days in jail can serve to destabilize individuals who are already living on the fringe of society. The Klamath County Courthouse efficiently ensures access for my clients and our Klamath County Judges are always willing to add my clients to the docket to close cases, or hear integral motions that mean the difference between freedom and continued incarceration. All systems are impacted by incarceration, and our court system acts as the gateway to decreased costs and disparate impact.

Timely court action decreases the criminal justice cost to our society. Without adequate docketing and staffing, the cost to communities increases.

In Klamath, we are well oiled machine. You must fully fund the OJD Budget. Without it, the wheels will fall off.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

/s/ AEK

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