

# Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County



Jackson County Justice Building – 100 S. Oakdale, Medford, OR 97501  
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Lorenzo Mejia, Judge

February 3, 2020

Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Bynum and Sprenger, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am the Presiding Judge in Judicial District One, Jackson County. We have a Family Treatment Court, that has been in existence for more than a decade. However, due to withdrawal of grant funding last year, we are insecure about continued operation of our Community Family Court. I write to convey our strong support of House Bill 4040.

Our family treatment court has been a valuable tool for getting and keeping children out of the dependency system.

Basically, our program was designed to have one judge handle all court matters that involve a family with children in the dependency system.

We have several community partners involved including DHS, CASA, the Family Nurturing Center, Addictions Recovery Center and Community Corrections. We also refer clients to social service providers. With added funding, we would be able to provide our families with more wrap around services.

Jackson County, on a per capita basis, leads the state in some of the worst social indicators including: criminal filings, dependency filings, opiate overdoses and suicides. A well-funded Family Treatment Court in our county would continue to be a crucial part in our court and community efforts to reduce these horrible statistics.

I am a CFC judge myself and find it to be a rewarding experience. To see parents, turn their lives around by becoming available and present for their children, inspires me. Family Treatment Courts are an innovative tool to break the cycle of generational drug abuse, domestic violence and dependency.

As a treatment court judge, I urge you to support House Bill 4040. I thank you for your consideration and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorenzo A. Mejia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lorenzo A. Mejia  
Presiding Judge of Judicial District One, Jackson County