



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER TOM KRESS

1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 → Roseburg, Oregon 97470

June 24, 2020

President Peter Courtney and Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020
Oregon State Legislature

Re: HB 4210

Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, Co-Vice Chair Girod, Co-Vice Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in opposition of the proposed HB 4210. Most concerning is the consideration of removing the courts ability to suspend driving privileges. This is a tool commonly used to ensure residents comply with Court Orders. Douglas County tries diligently to work with defendants on practical payment plans to assist them in meeting their obligations. Taking this tool away would very likely reduce compliance and subsequently, have a major impact on Douglas County being able to fund one or both of the Justice Courts. As you may be aware, due to financial shortfall, Douglas County has already consolidated down to just two Justice Courts to serve the residents with the Reedsport Justice Court being approximately 73 miles on a long windy road away from the Douglas County courthouse here in Roseburg. The impact on the coastal residents having to drive the 73 miles to make a court date could have profound effect, especially during storms when the conditions are unsafe.

Another negative side-effect of the potential impact would be the increased caseload on the already burdened District Attorney's office should the Justice Courts be closed and all cases handled by the Circuit Court. Please heartily consider the impact placed on citizens, governments and our justice system should this pass and stand with me in opposition.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tom Kress
Douglas County Commissioner