

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2169
BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
MARCH 18, 2021**

**PRESENTED BY: ERIN M. PETTIGREW, ACCESS TO JUSTICE COUNSEL FOR
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erin M. Pettigrew, Access to Justice Counsel for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD).

OJD is working to further racial equity and the reduction of trauma in the criminal justice system and supports the efforts of all engaged in this work. While we have not had an opportunity to fully analyze the -1 amendment and are therefore neutral as to those changes to HB 2169 at this time, we are very grateful for the voices of those who are bringing racial justice, lived experience, restorative justice, and healing to the forefront. We at OJD seek to build bridges and collaborate better with the communities and the individuals impacted to further racial equity in Oregon's criminal justice system.

Our support is echoed in the branch's own work in the Oregon Supreme Court Council on Inclusion and Fairness, the Chief Justice's Criminal Justice Advisory Council and OJD will send additional information for the record shortly as to our work in that arena. I have also submitted our Strategic Campaign (2020-2021) materials to the record containing information regarding our efforts to improve equity in a variety of case types and our efforts to train and educate judges and staff in equity, inclusion, diversity and belonging in our courts.

In addition to the work we are doing and will do to further racial justice and trauma-informed services, OJD wants to be an active, engaged partner across branches and within communities to ensure that Oregon's justice system is responsive to the needs of those we are here to serve. Please continue to engage those in our branch in the development of these critical innovations.

Thank you for your time and thank you to those who have worked to bring these concepts forward.