

**TESTIMONY ON HB 3366
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
MARCH 22, 2021**

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

Chair Williams, Vice-Chairs Leif and Ruiz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erin M. Pettigrew, Access to Justice Counsel for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I am very pleased to be before you today to offer OJD's support House Bill (HB) 3366 and to describe to you how the bill would positively impact Oregon's state courts and the families we serve. I am joined today by Judge Ann Lininger, Judge Manuel Perez, and Judge Megan Jacquot who will speak to the benefits of this bill in their judicial districts. Thank you for this opportunity.

HB 3366 is the culmination of many years of effort on the part of Legislators working together with those in child welfare system with a shared vision of addressing one of the greatest stressors on parents and parenting: substance abuse. In 2019, 3,235 children were removed; 60% of those families suffered from parental substance abuse disorders.

This is not the first time you have seen a bill like this. It was first introduced as HB 2258 in 2019 and then as HB 4040 in 2020. We are grateful for the leadership of the Governor's Office, Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Representative Tawna Sanchez and so many other elected representatives in their stalwart support of these innovations.

HB 3366 provides the resources necessary to fund Family Treatment Courts (FTC). These are problem-solving courts for families who enter the dependency system due to challenges connected with addiction. FTCs are considered a national best practice and provide specialized judicial procedures and court support to families.

FTCs help at-risk families through a collaborative case management model, and deliver results through a wrap-around, non-adversarial approach. They are proven to reduce reentry to the child welfare system, with proven community impact and reduced costs, and sustained long-term sobriety for parents. Our existing Family Treatment Courts, such as the one in Columbia County, are proud of the fact that return to the dependency system is virtually nonexistent in their jurisdiction. Simply put, these courts work.

This bill would support the launch of Family Treatment Courts in several counties across Oregon serving frontier, rural and urban communities: Clackamas, Grant, Harney,

Douglas and Coos. It would also provide the full complement of services to existing programs that are missing some of the components recommended by national best practices for these courts in Marion and Jackson Counties so that families in these jurisdictions have the full complement of FTC services as they work toward sobriety and success.

HB 3366 would fund the following key components:

- Courts: judges, court coordinators, statewide support and training
- Human Services: Substance abuse treatment providers, housing, child welfare case workers, peer supports, and other human services
- Parental Representation: Parent Child Representation Programs (PCRP) county-wide for all parents in the child welfare system

Thank you for your time and interest in this important bill. I will now turn to the Honorable Ann Lininger, Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge to describe more the program components and the need in her community.