



TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
DATE: February 5, 2021
RE: Support for HB 2940

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of House Committee on Judiciary:

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) is a non-profit association of attorneys who represent children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, and adults in criminal prosecutions, civil commitment proceedings, appeals, and post-conviction relief throughout the state of Oregon.

OCDLA promotes legislation beneficial to the criminal and juvenile justice systems that protects the constitutional and statutory rights of those accused of crime or otherwise involved in delinquency and dependency systems as well as to the lawyers and service providers who do this difficult work. We also advocate against issues that would harm our goals of reform within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 2940.

Timelines for these waiver cases are difficult to determine at this time, as we have yet to see a normal in court and access to youth in detention due to COVID-19. We have prioritized discussion on access to records, as decreasing the amount of time it takes to get records for psychological assessments could speed up the process considerably. We have also continued to engage with facilities on how to follow COVID-19 protocols but allow access for psychologists and defense attorneys to youth. In addition, in COVID times, we continue to monitor for delays caused by access to youth and will engage with the SB 1008 Steering Committee on this topic, as we see what timelines look like in a post-COVID world.

OCDLA is part of the Governor's SB 1008 Implementation Steering Committee. We supported the bill in 2020 (in SB 1546) and we support HB 2940 now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mae Lee Browning
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association