



GRANT-HARNEY COUNTY CASA, INC
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To: Sen. Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
Rep. Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety

Re: Support for HB 5012

April 14, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) budget. I strongly support the budget requests of the OJD.

Our local Circuit Courts have worked tirelessly over the course of the pandemic to pivot to remote services and support community partners and citizens in effectively engaging with the court remotely. Because of these efforts, our local Circuit Courts have continued to remain operational throughout the last year, significantly minimizing the disruption to juvenile dependency cases. Critical to our volunteers' ability to effectively advocate for the best interests of children in the state's care is the opportunity to provide current information and recommendations to the judge who can hold parties accountable for ensuring progress is made toward family reunification, where possible, or other permanency for the child in a safe, loving home.

As active participants in our local Juvenile Court Improvement Program (JCIP) team and Steering Committee guiding development of a local Family Treatment Court, we value the commitment of our local Circuit Courts to improving court processes, access to services, and creating trauma-informed responses to substance use within families – the leading factor in our local child welfare cases. These efforts are critical to reducing disproportionality and disparate outcomes within the judicial and child welfare systems. We believe the OJD needs to be fully funded to continue its work ensuring safety, equity and access to justice for children and families in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Hannah Hinman
Executive Director
Grant-Harney County CASA