



Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Shaun S. McCrea. I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA)¹. I served as Vice Chair of the Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC) for approximately 15 years, and then approximately one year as Chair. I speak today in support of HB 2003, which expands the membership of the Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC) but requires a demonstrated commitment to public defense from the commissioners. HB 2003 also enshrines PDSC articulated policies concerning compensation, caseloads and oversight into statute. OCDLA supports HB 2003.

¹ OCDLA has been the leading voice for public defense policy in Oregon for over 40 years, representing 1,200 providers statewide. Our members work with youth in the juvenile justice system, parents whose children have been removed, children in foster care, and adults in the criminal justice system, appeals, civil commitments and post-conviction proceedings. We serve the defense community by offering extensive continuing legal education, training and educational resources to assist and guide defense providers. OCDLA advocates for legislation ensuring the rights of the accused, those involved in the juvenile justice system, and the attorneys, investigators and others who do this difficult work. Our members include private bar providers and investigators, employees of non-profit public defender offices as well as private bar consortia providers.

The provisions of HB 2003 that adopt PDSC's articulated policies to ensure that compensation and caseloads are in accordance with national and regional best practices will —we hope — ease the burden on our members and everyone in the defense community who strive to provide high quality representation every day to our low-income clients, despite high caseloads, lack of resources and low pay.

HB 2003 is a first step in the right direction. Thank you for helping to improve our public defense system for everyone: our clients, and the attorneys, investigators and others who represent them. OCDLA looks forward to being at the table as the process evolves and participating in a full and meaningful way as part of the stakeholder engagement. We urge this Committee to pass HB 2003.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shaun S. McCrea

Executive Director, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association