

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar
in Support of HB 2176
Before
The House Committee on Judiciary
House Subcommittee on Civil Law
February 1, 2021**

Chair Power and members of the committee:

The Oregon State Bar supports HB 2176, which makes a number of changes ensuring a more fair collection process for court fees.

Currently courts must charge a minimum of \$50 before setting up a payment plan for a defendant who is unable to pay. HB 2176 permits the court to charge an amount that is appropriate in each case rather than a statutory minimum. By giving the courts greater discretion to set a minimum payment amount, the court and a defendant can work together to create a court fee repayment plan which sets the defendant up for a greater chance of success in meeting their financial responsibilities.

Likewise, the bill gives courts additional flexibility to settle judgments with debtors, so long as the settlement does not compromise amounts owned to victims. In this way, HB 2176 strikes an important balance between helping defendants meet court imposed financial obligations and ensuring that monies owed to crime victims are still collected.

The Oregon State Bar very much supports the court's efforts to promote a fairer collection process for all court ordered financial obligations and we urge the committee to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Denning
Oregon State Bar
Chair, Public Affairs Committee