

TESTIMONY ON SB 422
BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2021
Fee Justice in Juvenile Delinquency Matters
PRESENTED BY: ERIN M. PETTIGREW, ACCESS TO JUSTICE COUNSEL FOR
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, Members of the Committee, my name is Erin M. Pettigrew, Access to Justice Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I am here to testify in support of SB 422.

SB 422 eliminates fees and court costs associated with juvenile delinquency matters and provides for the appointment of court-appointed counsel at state expense. The bill also removes the parental support obligation for youths in state custody.

The OJD supports efforts to examine how court fees are assessed to ensure that they do not create unnecessary barriers or disproportionate outcomes. This is consistent with the goals set out in our [2020-2021 Strategic Campaign](#) (Commitment 1, Initiative 1.2). We aim to join our justice system partners and the Legislature in finding ways to further equity and fairness for youth and their families.

Our experience is that juvenile delinquency matters have very low collection rates and little impact on fee revenue generated to the state. Overall, we think this bill will simplify juvenile delinquency matters for courts, youths, and their parents.

Some aspects of the bill will require one-time configuration changes to our state court case management system and business process changes, but we expect those changes to be minimal. We hope to continue to work with Youth, Rights, and Justice and the bill Sponsors on refinements to the bill. As we do so, we will highlight any workload impacts to the courts. I am confident that we can work together to promote fee justice in Oregon's court system and keep the fiscal and workload for courts low.

I am available if there are any questions. Thank you for your time today.