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**TO: House Committee On Judiciary**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: February 1, 2022**  
**RE: Support for HB 4120**

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Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mae Lee Browning and I am testifying today on behalf of OCDLA.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit professional association for experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon

Involvement in the criminal legal system and juvenile system has long-lasting consequences on people. Fines and fees associated with court involvement can have a devastating impact on people that affects every part of their daily lives.

OCDLA supports HB 4120 because it reduces the financial consequences of court involvement, gives judges discretion to waive fines, and requires the court to consider a person's ability to pay. HB 4120 allows for the reduction of minimum fines if requiring payment of the minimum fine would be inconsistent with justice. When making that determination, the court shall consider the person's financial resources, the burden the minimum fine would impose, as well as the person's other financial obligations.

Other sections of the bill that make accessing the courts easier, such as requiring a true and correct copy of the trust account statement of an adult in custody instead of a certified copy.

OCDLA supports the court's ability to continue remote appearances. Appearing in person in court can be a significant strain on people who must request time off work, make arrangements for childcare, and find and access public transportation (if available). For attorneys, remote appearances can save time as a lot of time is wasted sitting in court waiting for a case to be called. Additionally, for the attorneys who practice in multiple jurisdictions, remote appearances saves the attorney travel time. If an in-person court appearance is requested, the judge will determine if a particular need requires an in-person hearing and may order an in-appearance hearing.

OCDLA supports reductions in court fines and remote appearances. **We urge you to vote YES on HB 4120.**

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