

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar
in Support of HB 4121
before
the House Judiciary Committee**

February 1, 2022

Chair Bynum, and members of the Committee,

The mission of the Oregon State Bar is to regulate the legal profession and improve the quality of legal services; support the judiciary and improve the administration of justice; and advance a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system.

House Bill 4121 codifies the legislature's decision in 2021 to create statewide Child Support Referees. These positions will provide greater consistency in child support determinations statewide, as well as allow for faster and more efficient resolution of child support cases. The new process is modeled after the juvenile referee statute that has been in place in Oregon since the 1990s. Under this process, the referee is empowered to make decisions, but the parties retain the ability to request review of the decision by local judge.

As an instrumentality of Oregon's courts with a commitment to protecting the public, the Oregon State Bar supports the Oregon Judicial Department's efforts to address this critical area of Oregon's judicial system, and improve procedural outcomes for all Oregonians.

Thank you for allowing the Oregon State Bar to provide testimony on this bill and we look forward to working further on this issue in the future.