



January 30, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (“OADC”), which represents approximately 600 civil defense lawyers, we would like to offer our support of SB 235.

SB 235 adds seven additional trial judges to the bench statewide, spread out across six key counties: Jackson, Lane, Clackamas, Josephine, Douglas, and Washington. This bill adds judges in 6 of 27 judicial districts, in key counties based on changing demographics of Oregon’s growing population and needs. It will help ensure that everyone has meaningful access to prompt and fair resolution of disputes. The timely resolution of complex disputes requires adequate judge time and staff, and this bill will allow the judicial branch to improve the justice system and promote access, inclusion, innovation, and timely justice for all.

Access to justice is critical to our legal system. Adding judges in these key counties, even criminal judges, can help to clear capacity and relieve docket time that will free up more judicial capacity for civil litigants in our county courthouses. OADC therefore urges your strong support.

If you would like further testimony from any of our members on the importance of the passage of this bill to civil practitioners here in Oregon, we would be happy to offer testimony. Thank you for your consideration of OADC’s input on this important bill.

Sincerely,

OADC Government Affairs Committee

Peter Tuenge – President, OADC
Heather Bowman – President-Elect, OADC
Dan Larsen – Secretary/Treasurer, OADC
Lloyd Bernstein – Chair, OADC Government Affairs Committee
Molly Marcum
Daniel Schanz
Maureen McGee (Lobbyist)
Rocky Dallum (Lobbyist)