

Submitter: Doug Marteeny
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2427

I am writing in support of HB 2427. My office is responsible for submitting witness reimbursement requests to the county treasurer. In that capacity, we interact with citizens who have been required to attend court. Frequently, the response from those citizens when they hear the reimbursement rates is one of disbelief. They express that the current rates don't come close to full reimbursement for their expenses.

It is reasonable for a taxpayer to expect a fair reimbursement of their travel costs. The federal reimbursement rates are fairer than Oregon's current rates. This law will align the witness reimbursement rates with federal rates. This law is also helpful because it automatically adjusts reimbursement rates to future travel cost fluctuations.

I also support the suggested amendment that will require these costs to be reimbursed by the State.

Ensuring that reimbursement costs are aligned with actual travel costs of witnesses will make our system more fully accessible to all and not just to citizens who can afford to participate in legal processes.

Thank you,
Doug Marteeny