



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 08, 2023

TO: Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: HB 2224 Juror Compensation

This testimony is presented in support of HB 2224.

Oregon currently has one of the lowest jury pay and mileage reimbursement rates in the nation. In fact, for one day of service, Oregon jurors are paid less than what the nation's lowest minimum wage pays hourly. These rates are inadequate to cover many of the financial losses Oregonians incur from fulfilling their required jury service duty, including loss of work, child-care, elder care, parking, transportation, and food costs.

HB 2224 will increase jury rates of pay and mileage reimbursement to address these and other economic barriers that many Oregonians face when summoned to serve on juries, thereby improving jury turnout, representation, and engagement. Additionally, the bill will authorize the State Court Administrator to periodically adjust this compensation in accordance with cost-of-living increases. Finally, it will allocate money in the General Fund towards additional juror compensation for jurors whose employers do not provide paid jury leave, given that paid leave is only optional under Oregon law.

While HB 2224 will not fully compensate jurors for the expense of their service, it will increase the number of Oregonians who are able to serve this important role in our democracy. These increased rates will help ensure that juries more accurately represent their communities which, in turn, will increase these communities' access to justice and confidence in our government.

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