

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar in Support of HB 2224
Before the House Judiciary Committee**

February 8, 2023

Chair Kropf and members of the committee:

My name is John Marandas. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors in support of HB 2224, which proposes to increase the compensation for jury service.

The Oregon State Bar (OSB) is a public corporation and an instrumentality of the court with over 15,000 active members. The Oregon State Bar serves the public interest by: regulating the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services; supporting the judiciary and improving the administration of justice; and advancing a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system.

HB 2224

Having a large and diverse pool of potential jurors from which to form juries is critical to ensuring that litigants in Oregon court receive a fair hearing. One of the major impediments to forming juror pools that represent a broad cross-section of our community is the fact that not all Oregonians are equally able to take time away from work or other obligations to serve.

While employers are required to allow employees to be away from work to serve on juries, they are not necessarily required to pay the employee if they missed work for jury duty. Currently jurors in Oregon are paid as little as \$10/day for jury services. This is a fraction of what even a minimum wage worker would receive for a full day of work. For many Oregonians, it is simply not possible to miss out on their normal wages to serve on a jury.

HB 2224 would raise this minimum amount to \$50/day for the first two days, and \$60/day beyond that. The bill would also permit OJD to continue to raise this amount to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

While serving on juries will always be a financial hardship for many individuals, this bill represents a meaningful step to making jury service financially feasible for more Oregonians.

The Oregon State Bar fully supports HB 2224, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.