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**TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: February 8, 2023**  
**RE: SUPPORT for SB 581**

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Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Mae Lee Browning. I represent the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. OCDLA's 1,200 members statewide include public defense providers, private bar attorneys, investigators, experts, and law students. Our attorneys represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Our mission is championing justice, promoting individual rights, and supporting the legal defense community through education and advocacy.

**I am testifying in support of SB 581.**

**Consistent supervision means safer communities.** Excessively long and burdensome parole and probation unnecessarily disrupts a person's life, family, and employment, and prevents people from rebuilding their lives and thriving -- barriers that disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color. By making earned discharge eligibility requirements consistent for people who are on parole, probation, and post-prison supervision, we can build on people's strengths and promote stable homes, families, and economies.

The Oregon legislature has been helping people thrive when they are on community supervision by steadily removing barriers and promoting opportunities for success. Part of this success has been achieved through the Earned Discharge program, a Department of Corrections and Community Corrections process that allows someone on supervision to earn a reduction in the length of their supervision sentence if they are meeting their supervision goals.

SB 581 would build on this progress by creating consistency in Oregon's earned discharge system so that eligibility requirements are consistent for all people who are on parole, probation, and post-prison supervision.

By passing SB 581, Oregon's supervision program would:

- **Create consistency:** Allow those who are successfully meeting their supervision goals to earn up to a 50% reduction in their sentence and ensure eligibility is

determined based on the same criteria for all, regardless of when someone was convicted.

- **Incentivize success:** Reward people who are successful by providing people on supervision with feedback for making progress on their case plan.
- **Reduce caseloads:** Supervision officers can focus on people who are struggling to comply with their conditions of post-prison supervision.
- **Promote racial equity:** By safely reducing the number of people on supervision, we can make Oregon's public safety system more equitable and more effective.

Consistent community supervision builds safer communities. I urge you to support SB 581.

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