

**TESTIMONY ON SB 5505  
BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

**PRESENTED BY: NANCY COZINE, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Nancy Cozine, State Court Administrator. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill (SB) 5505, the budget of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

The strong partnership between CJC and the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) has led to improvements in Oregon's criminal justice system. Our work is complimentary, with CJC often leading research, policy development, and program evaluation while OJD focuses on implementation. We recognize the importance of collaborative problem-solving and maintain a commitment to using data and best practices in long-range planning. We maintain critical data sharing agreements, serve together on committees and workgroups, and collaborate regularly across many aspects of our work.

In addition, CJC serves an important role as a funder of Oregon's specialty courts, justice reinvestment, and other grant programs. The Governor's Recommended Budget proposes a reduction to specialty court funding of approximately 6%. Currently, due to limited grant funds, CJC cannot fund all requests made by Oregon Specialty Court Grant programs. These limited grant funds require program applicants and CJC to make tough choices. Specialty court funding supports work to reduce recidivism, decrease prison use, reunify families, increase public safety, and deliver restorative services.

Some of the ways OJD and CJC work together are described in greater detail below.

**Specialty Courts:** As the primary funder of Oregon's specialty courts, CJC continues to emphasize adherence to best practices, and, in 2018, developed Oregon's Specialty Court Standards in consultation with OJD. These standards were adopted by the Chief Justice to guide operation of Oregon's specialty courts. CJC provides financial support for the Specialty Court Management System (SCMS), the case management system used by specialty courts to track participant and court outcome measures. In addition to OJD's own specialty court dashboards, CJC has access to the SCMS data for recidivism studies and provides independent evaluation of the programs informing adherence to the research-based program model. The Chief Justice's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) monitors specialty court implementation, and OJD maintains central staff with subject matter expertise to provide best practices and business process support throughout our 72 specialty courts. OJD supports improvement through data gathering and dashboards, peer reviews, training, and performance measures.

**Pretrial Release:** CJC's expertise in research and policy development informed the work of the Oregon Legislature's Public Safety Task Force (PSTF). The PSTF report produced in December 2020, following several years of study, laid out recommendations for improving pretrial release decision making in Oregon, many of which informed the thinking behind SB 48 (2021). The Chief Justice's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee has been integral in the

implementation of SB 48, as directed by the legislation, while OJD staff build programmatic support and provide training and technical assistance. CJC is providing financial and technical support in the development of a statewide pretrial risk assessment tool while OJD implements a statewide case management system. OJD and the CJC will use the data collected to monitor program activity and outcomes to inform implementation of best practices to continue working toward improved outcomes in Oregon.

OJD's Strategic Campaign Commitment 1 states: "We will join with community partners to improve services and outcomes for people who are underserved, vulnerable, or marginalized; and we will develop effective, supportive, and creative solutions to respond to their legal needs." We are grateful for the opportunity to work in partnership with CJC, and with all community partners, to improve the criminal justice system. The partnership with CJC is strong. Their work in research-based policy initiatives informs the implementation of many of our court programs.

Thank you for your time and attention.