

**Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee
in support of SB 309
On behalf of the Oregon State Bar Estate Planning Section
March 2, 2023**

Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

My name is June Wiyrick Flores. I am an attorney in Portland. I am here today as a representative of the Oregon State Bar's Estate Planning and Administration Section. The Estate Planning Section is made up of over 1,200 attorneys from all parts of Oregon, who represent clients both in preparing plans for their estates helping families resolve those plans when someone passes.

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.

Senate Bill 309

Senate Bill 309 updates ORS Chapter 113 to simplify the process for publishing notice of the appointment of a personal representative in a probate proceeding.

Currently the statute requires that notice be published "once in each of three consecutive weeks." Because most newspaper publications are read online, the requirement to publish multiple times during multiple weeks no longer works as well as in the past. Publishing a single time for an appropriate duration has a similar effect. This amendment does not change the rights of creditors or heirs. Reducing the publication requirements will reduce costs imposed on an estate, resulting in more assets going to heirs.

The bill also makes several conforming changes to other probate statutes to correctly reference the date of publication.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 309. I am happy to answer any questions.