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DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

TAX ID # 93-0639815

TO: Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

FROM: Paul Solomon and Morgen Jaco, co-executive directors

DATE: Mar 9, 2023

RE: HB 5512, Oregon Judicial Department budget

Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, members of the committee,

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the co-executive director of Sponsors, a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services, operating in Lane County. We offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, mental health services and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community.

I also serve on several boards and commissions, including the Governor's Racial Justice Council, subcommittee on Criminal Justice Reform & Police Accountability, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and the Oregon Public Defense Services Commission.

Myself, and Sponsors, support full funding of the OJD budget and want to highlight a few areas of the agency budget that are particularly important to us and impactful for the individuals we serve.

POP 101: Oregon Pretrial Justice Network Support Oregon Judicial Department's re: SB 48 Implementation

In 2013, with passage of HB 3194 setting up the Justice Reinvestment program some counties choose to use funds for pretrial release programs. In 2019 the legislature passed SB 48 that provided additional state funding for pretrial release programs, established clear jail release guidelines, and reduced reliance on cash bail. OJD POP 101 provides funding for



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continued implementation of SB 48, this funding would have a dramatic impact on including historically underserved communities, and safeguarding the advancement of pretrial justice reform in Oregon.

POP 103: Continue to automate processes that give people a fresh start by setting aside records of a conviction, where allowed by law.

Sponsors has been the lead on the Clean Slate Oregon coalition since 2020 working to modernize and automate Oregon's expungement, criminal record sealing, laws. In 2021 we assisted Sen. Fredrick in securing the original \$1 million in ARPA funding to begin this important work at OJD. Along with other legislative efforts we support the need for this \$2 million to further the work to automate Oregon's expungement law. We are far behind many states in creating access to justice for individuals with criminal records who are eligible for expungement, we support OJD's work to continue moving Oregon in the direction.

Oregon courts play a key role in addressing the Governor and the Legislature's top priorities this session: in public safety, public defense, behavioral health, housing/homelessness, equity and justice, and economic vitality. At Sponsors we support fully funding the Oregon Judicial Department and the additional investments that will allow Oregon to continue on a trajectory that increases access to justice.