

Submitter: Keiler Beers

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public
Safety

Measure: SB5532

To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

From: Keiler Beers

Date: 04/18/23

Re: Support for SB 5532 and POPs 103 and 112 - Critical Investments in Juvenile
Defense

Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, and Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and
Means Subcommittee On Public Safety:

My name is Keiler Beers, and I am a juvenile public defender in Portland . I urge your support of SB 5532 and the POPs. As a juvenile defense attorney, I specifically want to highlight the need for POP 103 to expand PCRCP and POP 112, which would designate legal representation in juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, and termination-of-parental-rights cases as a mandated caseload, that is, representation required by the state or federal constitutions or statutes or as a result of court actions.

I have been a juvenile defense attorney in Multnomah County for three years. I started right around when PCRCP was expanded here in MultCo, so I'm not able to compare my experience to before the implementation, but I can't imagine providing quality representation if I had even more cases than I currently do, and didn't have the support of the PCRCP case managers that comes along with the expansion.

Our caseloads are nearly half of what they used to be before PCRCP, and that is still a very daunting number. Clients in every county deserve to have the same well-resourced attorneys that MultCo currently does.

The expansion of PCRCP case managers in particular has been incredibly helpful to my practice. I am able to have CMs work on things with my clients that I would otherwise have to either do myself (at the expense of case work) or rely on DHS to do themselves, which is never a dependable practice.

I urge your support of SB 5532, the POPs, and especially POPs 103 and 112.

Sincerely,

Keiler Beers (Multnomah County)