

Submitter: Alex Spinks

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SB5532

My name is Alex Spinks. I am your constituent.

I am a self-employed criminal defense attorney who has been practicing in this field for 10 years. I'm writing to ask you to support the OPDS base budget bill (SB 5532) and POPs 101 and 114. It is imperative to fund the OPDS base budget bill, otherwise the public defender shortage will increase, and it will result in more unrepresented people. It is also imperative to pass POPs 101 and 114 so that we can retain attract investigators who are an essential part of the defense team. Without investigators, cases will not move forward. POP 114 increases the investigator rate from \$40/hr to \$75/hr for investigators who are paid hourly (about 75% of criminal defense investigators). For investigators who are salaried and employed by a nonprofit public defense office (about 25% of criminal defense investigators), POP 101 would increase investigator salaries to match comparable state prosecutor and appellate public defender compensations. The investments in SB 5532 and OPDS POPs 101 and 114 are critical to retaining the current criminal defense workforce.

Please contact me if you have any questions.