

Submitter: Ian Johnson

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: SB5532

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

My name is Ian Johnson. I am a private investigator specializing in criminal defense in Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I urge your support of SB 5532 and POPs 101, 102, 114, 115, and 103, which will increase compensation for the entire public defense team, including attorneys, investigators, and support staff in order to retain and recruit public defense attorneys and investigators and increase capacity with more support staff.

In my years as a licensed investigator in Oregon I have seen many of my fellow investigators and public defenders transition to more lucrative areas of practice. Criminal defense has a high skill ceiling which rewards experience. Passing SB 5532 and the accompanying POPs will ensure seasoned providers can address more complicated felony cases and mentor incoming providers. It will also be cheaper for our state in the long run than continually training new providers to replace those who have burned out. It is no secret that Oregon is in the midst of a public defense crisis. Without drastic investment, Oregonians' trust in our public safety and justice systems will only erode further.

Sincerely,

Ian Johnson DPSST# 101761