

**TESTIMONY ON HB 4001  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**PRESENTED BY: NANCY COZINE, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nancy Cozine, the State Court Administrator for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I want to start by thanking the numerous chief sponsors and other sponsors for bringing this forward. I am pleased to offer OJD's support of House Bill 4001 with the -1 amendment. We believe the focus of this bill is appropriately tailored to ensure Oregon's treatment courts are operating effectively and are excited for the opportunity to participate in the task force.

### **Treatment Court Model**

Treatment courts are critical public safety programs that are a core part of OJD's work. They are a research-based approach to reducing recidivism and improving people's lives, which, as a result, avoids costs related to future crimes and additional justice system involvement. The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) recently conducted a [recidivism study](#) that found that 75% of graduates did not recidivate within three years of successfully completing a treatment court program, compared with 41% of people who participated in, but did not complete, a treatment program, and 35% of people who were referred to a treatment court but did not enter the program.

Treatment courts are voluntary programs that are designed to serve justice-involved individuals who have been identified as moderate to high risk to either recidivate or fail on supervision and moderate to high clinical need for treatment services. Once an individual is accepted into a treatment court, a multidisciplinary team of local professionals (e.g., judiciary, prosecutor, defense, probation, treatment, social service organizations, recovery groups, etc.) provide coordinated services and supervision and leverage community partnerships to support them. It is important for all partners to be at the table for these programs to be their most effective. This bill takes the important step of creating a task force to review the funding structure for Oregon's treatment courts to ensure that each court has what it needs to operate effectively.

### **Current Funding Structure**

Under the current funding structure, the CJC serves as the primary funder for Oregon's treatment courts through their grant program. Each program that relies on a CJC grant must reapply for the grant every two years. Those grants fund many court coordinator positions (OJD employees who have the essential role of coordinating the treatment

court). The non-permanent, cyclical nature of grant funding harms recruitment and retention for these critical positions.

Additionally, current funding is not sufficient to meet the need. Approximately 38% of the CJC grant supports coordinators, leaving insufficient funding to increase the number of participants, meet participant needs, and develop new courts. In the 2023-25 grant cycle, CJC funded 67% of the requests it received, and, as a result, was forced to underfund requests for critical services such as housing, treatment, and enhanced drug testing.

As mentioned by Speaker Rayfield during his testimony, OJD has submitted funding requests to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means to provide General Fund for the coordinators currently funded with CJC grant funds, and also to expand staffing in new, understaffed, or unstaffed treatment courts. These coordinators are crucial members of our treatment court programs. We would be glad to provide additional information to this committee about those requests and appreciate the legislature's consideration of them.

### **House Bill 4001**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit feedback on this bill. We appreciate the changes made in the -1 amendments. However, we believe there are some ways the task force could be improved. We are requesting a third OJD representative on the task force to allow OJD treatment court staff to be represented. OJD staff are well-versed in treatment court best practices and work closely with treatment court judges and coordinators. Due to those relationships and frequent interactions, OJD staff have a unique perspective on the challenges treatment courts face. Even if OJD does not receive a third representative, we would be happy to assist the task force in any way we can.

In addition, members of the task force should represent both rural and urban communities because each locality has their own unique challenges. Task force representatives should also be familiar with the treatment court model to ensure that the recommendations contained within the report are consistent with evidence-based practices. Lastly, recognizing the need to limit the number of people named to the task force, OJD will do its best to ensure that individuals who are familiar with the different types of treatment courts (e.g., adult drug courts, DUII courts, family treatment courts, juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts) can be heard through this process, to give voice to the variety of needs of the individuals each treatment court serves.

Finally, I would like to thank the proponents of the measure for being open and amenable to our feedback. We support this bill and believe it will be the first step toward providing more stability to Oregon's treatment courts.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.