

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 4086
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES
FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

**PRESENTED BY: JORDAN BATES, SENIOR ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jordan Bates, Senior Assistant General Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). While OJD is neutral on HB 4086 with the -1 amendment, we appreciate the inclusion of a Chief Justice appointment to each task force and focus our testimony on those sections.

HB 4086 with the -1 amendment directs the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to commission two studies: one focusing on the scope of child abuse investigations in Oregon; and the other focusing on Oregon's response to children exhibiting problematic sexual behavior. Both include specified findings and reporting requirements. Each study will be led by a facilitator in collaboration with an advisory committee, which includes appointments by ODHS and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice's appointments to each committee include a judge who hears dependency cases. OJD welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with stakeholders to provide the court's input and perspectives on these important topics.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide this testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Jordan Bates Jordan.F.Bates@ojd.state.or.us, or Kaiti Ferguson, Kaiti.Ferguson@ojd.state.or.us.