

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 4146
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

**PRESENTED BY: KAITI FERGUSON, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

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

My name is Kaiti Ferguson, Legislative Affairs Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD).

While OJD is neutral on HB 4146 with the -1 amendment, we submit this testimony to express our appreciation and thanks to Representative Hartman for her receptivity and responsiveness to our concerns. We are pleased to see they have been addressed with the -1 amendment and focus our testimony on sections 1-3.

Sections 1-3 of HB 4146 with the -1 expand the counties in which a petition for a Family Abuse Prevention Act order, Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act order, or a Sexual Abuse Protection Order may be filed to include the county in which the alleged abuse occurred. The -1 amendment gives OJD sufficient time to update the forms we develop to help self-represented persons – individuals without attorneys – who are seeking restraining orders access help to navigate the court process. These forms aim to streamline the process and help ensure self-represented petitioners provide all statutorily required information and will need to be updated to reflect the changes in this bill. We are grateful that the -1 amendment provides us with sufficient time to make those changes and have these forms available for use when these sections become effective.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide this testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Kaiti.Ferguson@ojd.state.or.us or Cynthia Domingo-Foraste, Senior Assistant General Counsel, at Cynthia.J.Domingo-Foraste@ojd.state.or.us.