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February 24, 2025

House Judiciary Committee
Committee Chair and Members

Re: HB2614

I have been an attorney in Oregon for thirty four years, and have worked with the 22nd Circuit Defenders, LLC, in Crook and Jefferson Counties for the last twenty four years. I am the co-contract manager for our criminal and juvenile defense consortium. I write this letter with regard to HB2614

Consortia play a major role in the provision of court-appointed representation in rural counties. As separate law offices, efficiently and economically administered by a contract manager, consortia are able to act quickly to provide a high level of legal services to those the court deems financially qualify for appointed counsel. Additionally, in situations where there are multiple co-defendants in a criminal case, or several qualifying family members in a juvenile dependency case, consortia are able to parse the cases out to their attorneys and avoid having to deal with the client conflicts that would arise if only a public defender's office was providing services in that jurisdiction.

Just like in public defender offices, consortia attorneys provide mentoring, case staffing, and coverage for each other. For example, I currently mentor two younger attorneys in our consortium, helping them prepare for trial and walking them through difficult legal questions.

The complete elimination of consortia would cause a large number of attorneys, attorneys who are not included in the public defender model, including very new attorneys, to practice law on their own without someone having their back and ensuring competent legal representation of a vulnerable population.

If you allow the sun to set on consortia, this vulnerable population will suffer by having attorneys represent them without the proper support and supervision. Thank you for considering this issue.

Very Truly Yours,



Jennifer Kimble
Attorney at Law