

Submitter: Mindy Stannard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3180

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I write in support of HB 3180. I have been a resident of Washington County since 2016. I am a family law attorney in private practice with the law firm of Stannard and Batalden Family Law. I have been practicing in Oregon since 2004, and have frequently practiced and appeared at the Washington County Courthouse since 2007. I frequently represent children in contested custody or parenting time proceedings at the request of judges in Washington County and have been a volunteer pro tem judge (for the restraining order docket) in Washington County for many years.

Washington County is rapidly expanding and our judges and courthouse staff are doing their best to stretch the dated and limited resources available at the current courthouse location. A new and larger courthouse is needed as soon as possible to help make sure that the residents of Washington County have adequate access to the legal system in this county.

The current courthouse has significant challenges when it comes to accessibility for those who are using a wheelchair. There is difficulty with navigating many of the courtrooms in the current courthouse for those individuals using a wheelchair.

There is a lack of space for attorneys, advocates and others to advise their clients or to find private locations to have discussions at the courthouse.

The courthouse structures are dated, and I am concerned about whether or not portions of the courthouse would survive any significant earthquake.

Washington County's needs for a new courthouse must be addressed as soon as possible. This county is going to continue to expand, and it is important to make sure that we work toward having an adequate facility to help our judges and court staff meet the needs of our residents.

Thank you for your time -

Mindy Stannard