

# ODCA

Attn: Chair Jason Kropf  
Vice Chair Willie Chotzen  
Vice Chair Kim Wallan  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Subject: HB 3376

Date: March 21, 2025

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The Oregon Defense Consortia Association appreciates the opportunity to offer our feedback on HB 3376, which would establish the office of the district defender in each judicial district. We support an “all hands on deck” approach that includes strategic investments to the workforce.

ODCA agrees with the testimony offered by OCDLA and offer the following specifics:

- To the extent that OPDC is obligated to expand its current workforce, a true pilot of this concept might be useful in counties where there are perceived challenges with regard to case assignment.
- Our association has concerns about provisions of the bill that require expansion beyond a clearly defined pilot program. As an untested concept, this is a very expensive solution that is not easy to unwind, so it makes sense to tread carefully.
- Policy decisions in this area should be data-informed and data-driven. We encourage policymakers to test ideas, evaluate efficacy based on outcomes, and require very specific project plans for how agency trial staff will be used before approving further major expansions of the state trial division.
- We support and appreciate Sections 5 and 6 of HB 3376 that allow district defenders who take over case assignment duties to continue contracting with consortia and private firms.

Thank you for your consideration of our feedback on HB 3376. We appreciate your leadership and work to improve Oregon’s public defense system.

Sincerely,

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