

Good morning Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Hayden and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Katherine Green and I am a Senior Assistant Attorney General at the Oregon Department of Justice.

- I have worked at the Oregon Department of Justice for three and a half years and spent twelve years as a prosecutor in Lane County prior to this position.
- My subject matter expertise is sexual assaults involving children and adults and homicide cases. In my role as a prosecutor for the Oregon Department of Justice, I have served as a special prosecutor in the following counties: Curry, Crook, Klamath, Lake, Jefferson, Lane, Coos, Wallowa and Clackamas.
- My days are spent similarly to when I was a prosecutor in Lane County, listening to victims accounts of sexual violence, viewing evidence of homicide and working with law enforcement to protect our communities most vulnerable victims. However, my role at the Oregon DOJ is unique in that my position now requires travel to the counties I serve. Unlike my previous job, where I enjoyed a secure office space, courthouse security and my own home security, I am now traveling alone to rural locations and staying in hotels or short term rentals where my presence is often not welcome. During the prosecution of a homicide in rural Oregon, courthouse security was kind enough to make certain I arrived at my state vehicle safely after a verdict. However, in the single grocery store in town, the homicide defendant's family observed me as I shopped and went to my vehicle. Instead of being able to return to my personal home, I went to my short term rental alone. During one trip to rural eastern Oregon, I stayed in a hotel in Prairie, Oregon. This hotel, while lovely, had no staff that worked during the night and I was the singular overnight guest. My concern for my personal safety is heightened in this role given the nature of my cases and the locations I am serving.
- I am the mother of two young children and the personal sacrifices of this position are also challenging at times. This past spring, my caseload took me away from home for nearly 5 weeks. I prosecuted a homicide of a teen in Curry County and a five-victim child sexual abuse case in Coos County. During the time I was away from home, I had to arrange for overnight care of my own children, as my husband, who is a police sergeant, was working the night shift. Our family required the help of out-of-state grandparents, local grandparents and paid childcare providers to accommodate the work our family was doing on behalf of Oregon public safety and vulnerable victims.

I am here today in support of SB 1569, which aligns prosecutors of the criminal justice division at the Department of Justice, into PER's Police and Fire. Like many classifications in this bill, our counterparts employed by other employers across the state already receive this enhanced retirement benefit.

My role as a special prosecutor throughout the State of Oregon is substantially the same role as I held in Lane County. In Lane County, I handled major crime cases involving homicide, sexual assault and serious domestic violence. I handle the same cases now, just on a statewide level. However, I now do not have the same retirement as my counterparts in district attorneys offices throughout the State, simply by

virtue of who my employer is. Oregon Department of Justice prosecutors not receiving this benefit creates a retention issue within our division. It also creates a recruitment issue for qualified prosecutors.

I urge this committee to vote yes on SB 1569.

Respectfully,

Katherine Green
Eugene, 97401