

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

For the record, my name is Tobias Tingleaf. I am a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Justice Division of the Oregon Department of Justice (CJ). I have been in this position for approximately five years. I spent the first approximately 11 years of my career (two as a clerk, nine as an attorney) at the Marion County District Attorney's Office.

The final few years of my time at Marion County were spent prosecuting child abuse and sexual assault. The caseload wore on me. I needed a refresh and went into civil practice for approximately five years. During my time in the civil realm, I realized how important the job of a prosecutor was. I realized what impact, purpose, and service prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys made in their communities and the state. I came back to CJ and prosecution with a renewed passion for justice.

In my time at CJ, I have tried numerous cases throughout the state. Most are multi-day or weeks long felony trials. All trials have required me to travel away from my home and my family overnight. I have spent weeks in Vale, John Day, Coos Bay, Newport and other locations. Handling murders, rapes, and other criminal prosecutions. When performing our job functions, attorneys in CJ have all the same duties and responsibilities of deputy district attorneys in the local county but with the added stress of distance. In a district attorney's office, you go home during trial and have family and friends to help with the stress. At CJ, we spend our trials alone with just our work file and thoughts. While it does wear on me, my prior experiences reinforce that it is all worth it.

For some additional insight into my life, and that of other CJ prosecutors, I spent the summer of 2024 living in Newport working at the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office handling all aspects of the office as the acting Chief Deputy. The office was down to the appointed District Attorney and one Deputy District Attorney. It was hectic, long hours, but fun and rewarding. We built the attorney numbers back up to a level that could adequately run the office. I missed the first month of school for my children, their first days, their sports and extracurriculars. It was a sacrifice, but to me and my family, it was worth it.

A year later, I spent September 2025 in a murder trial in Newport. A father murdered his 15-month-old daughter. For the second year in a row, I missed the first day of school and a month of family time. Again, while it was stressful to myself, and even more so to my wife and children, holding people accountable and ensuring justice was, and is, worth the associated

personal costs.

After that September 2025 murder trial, I had a week of office time before I had to travel to Lakeview for a sexual assault case. A 73-year-old family friend/babysitter sexually abused the 7-year-old child he was entrusted with. We had motion hearings on a Monday afternoon. Trial began Tuesday morning. The defendant did not show to trial. His special friend informed the court he was at home clearing his mind before trial. The judge issued a warrant. Deputies responded to the defendant's house to arrest him and bring him to trial. The Defendant pulled a gun on the deputies and was shot. He had planned the attack on law enforcement, notarizing a will the night before after the motion hearings did not go as he had wanted. The courthouse was locked down when the emergency announcement of "shots fired" was broadcast throughout the building. I found out later his special friend came to court with two knives and a can of pepper spray. Security was amazing, they did their job, and confiscated the knives and spray. We do not know what the special friend had planned to do, but she was stopped before she could do it. It was a long drive back to Salem, thinking and processing what had happened.

During my time at CJ, I have realized how passionate I am about prosecution. I have also realized that the stress of the job and the toll it takes on a CJ prosecutor is greater than that of a district attorney's office. More importantly, the stress and toll on my family is much greater. The sacrifices my wife and children make often make me feel guilty, but they reassure me the job needs to be done, and they support the victims in Oregon and they support me. I could not do this job without them.

I am here today in support of SB 1569, which aligns prosecutors of CJ 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.

This bill is about fairness to the families who sacrifice and the CJ attorneys who sacrifice their time to make Oregon the best state to live in.

I urge this committee to vote yes on SB 1569.

Respectfully,

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