

**From:** Foote, John <[JohnFoote@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:JohnFoote@co.clackamas.or.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** Rep Bynum <[Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov)>  
**Subject:** voting on state DA budget

Dear Representative Bynum,

We have not talked since we last met in your office some months ago. But, I understand that you voted against the tiny state DA budget this week. As you know, the state DA budget only really covers compensation for Oregon's 36 elected District Attorneys. I understand that there was some justification given for the vote on the floor of House of Representatives that involved comparing compensation for employees of public defender offices around the state with the salaries of Oregon's elected District Attorneys. As I am sure you know, our state budget merely included a very small COLA increase. If that was your concern, I am very curious if you have ever raised concerns about the COLA increases for any other state elected officials, including yourself.

Furthermore, as I am sure you are aware, since 2001 the state budget for indigent defense has increased 82% and now stands at more than \$276 million dollars. The state budget for DA's has increased 25% over the same time period and now stands at slightly more than \$11 million dollars. Any comparison between the two is frankly insulting to one's intelligence. Your vote against salaries for independently elected DA's this week was not just against our COLA's. It was against our state salaries and, if successful, would have resulted in no state income for each of those elected officials starting July 1, 2017.

Furthermore, if you are so concerned about cost control in our offices, why have you not inquired about all the efforts we make at the local level to control our costs. If you had you would have learned that we work very closely with our county commissioners (since most of our funding is from our counties) to control our costs.

Unless I am convinced otherwise, I remain convinced that this vote against our state budget was a personal attack against our independence as elected District Attorneys. Just this week the largest proposed cuts to sentencing this session were heard (HB 3078) and District Attorneys were specifically prohibited from testifying against the bill. SO, it appears the current tactic is to attack our personal incomes and muzzle our voices.

We work in the community every day. We communicate with citizens as victims, witnesses, police officers, witnesses, grand jurors, trial jurors and everyday concerned citizens. We have the daily opportunity to share how the system actually works here in Clackamas County and hear their concerns as well. I firmly believe that once the public fully understands some of the tactics and policies that are currently being pursued in Salem, they will speak loudly and clearly at the ballot box.

Your vote on our state budget was both disappointing and concerning and I wanted you to hear it straight from me.

Very Truly,

John Foote