



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
1021 S.W. FOURTH AVENUE  
PORTLAND, OR 97204-1123

MAUREEN McKNIGHT  
JUDGE

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**COMMENTS on SB 371-3 – ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN**

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Oregon Legislature  
March 21, 2019

Submitted by:  
Maureen McKnight, Circuit Court Judge  
Multnomah County

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I submitted testimony strongly supporting SB 371's approach of piloting a program to assess the benefit of appointing attorneys for children. I spoke then, as I do now, on my own behalf as well as my 13 colleagues on the Family Law Bench in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

**We support the Dash 3 amendments.** They incorporate an element we requested, i.e., clarification that parents who *can* contribute to the cost of their children's attorneys do so. That is the current state of the law under ORS 107.425 and should be retained in these pilots.

Regarding the Advisory Committee that would be convened by the Oregon State Bar (OSB) to develop performance standards for these attorneys, it is our understanding that OSB intends to include judges in addition to attorneys and other child professionals. We think judicial involvement is critical and appreciate the Bar's commitment to a breadth of professional disciplines being involved. That committee is addressed on page 1, at lines 17-19.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

  
MAUREEN McKNIGHT, Circuit Court Judge

cc: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
Nancy Cozine and Phil Lehman, State Court Administrator's Office  
Addie Smith, Senate Judiciary Counsel