

March 30, 2019

To: The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair; The Honorable Chris Gorsek, Vice-Chair; The Honorable Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair; Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Donovan Mack

Re: Support for district attorney accountability, HB 3224

I encourage you to pass legislation that will allow the public to hold Oregon's 36 elected prosecutors more accountable to the people they serve.

House Bill 3224 requires the most powerful local elected officials in our criminal justice system to make public their key prosecutorial policies.

Oregonians believe in open government. But transparency is limited or nonexistent when it comes to the practices of Oregon's district attorneys.

Most of us have no idea what to expect from our DA's office when we or someone we know is victimized or arrested.

For example, what access to services do crime survivors have to start rebuilding their lives? How and when do prosecutors offer diversion programs? Or make charging decisions and plea deals? Are children in custody allowed to contact their parents?

HB 3224 requires every county prosecutor's office to develop, regularly update and publicly share its core policies so that constituents can better hold them accountable.

Also, greater transparency will help demystify the complicated justice system for victims, defendants and community members, making it easier to understand, navigate — and trust.

By passing HB 3224 you will bring openness and accountability to DAs who are elected to serve in the public interest. This is vital to our justice system and to our democracy.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Donovan Mack
Eugene