

Jack Gray HB 3224 Testimony

April 2, 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

I'm writing in support of HB 3224.

It wasn't until my son committed a crime three years ago that I had any concept of our criminal justice system and the power of the District Attorney. Many people luckily go through their lives ignorant of our criminal justice system but anyone who has had a loved one in the system knows that fairness and transparency are hard to find there.

But the time has come. People are waking up and recognizing that being "tough on crime" has been a disaster for our state. It's time to be "smart on crime". Much of the tough on crime policy in Oregon has emanated from the county district attorney offices where goods politics has made bad policy. HB 3224 is a great step forward in making the District Attorney's office accountable. The public has a right to know the policies that their elected officials are using to run our criminal justice system.

How can this be too much to ask? We need to be moving towards a society where there is trust and respect for all components of our criminal justice system. Without transparency this will never happen.

Please support HB 3224.

Thank you very much.

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