

May 13, 2019

TO: Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
FR: Bob Joondeph, Policy Consultant
RE: Support for SB 375A

Representative Williamson and Members of the Committee:

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is the Protection and Advocacy System for Oregon. It has provided legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities since 1977.

DRO supports SB 375A in order to give greater assurance that a defendant is informed of the consequences of entering a plea of guilty except for insanity (GEI) to a felony before doing so. SB 375A will also give greater insurance that following a GEI finding, the defendant will be informed, on the record, of the maximum time of custody or supervision that will follow.

Defendants who assert a GEI defense may experience confusion in the judicial process, even if they are deemed capable to participating. The purpose of SB 375A is to assure the development of a court history and record that demonstrates the defendant knowingly pursued a GEI plea and was informed of its consequences.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 375A.