

February 24, 2021

Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
900 Court St NE – Room 453  
Salem OR 97301

**IN RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 499**

Dear Committee Members:

Kindly accept this letter as my testimony in favor of Senate Bill 499 which would "... create[s] civil claim for wrongful conviction."

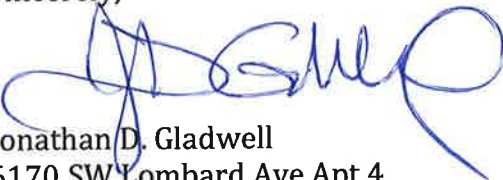
State government, and the actors employed by it, must be held to the same standards of conduct as any citizen or litigant. When the State makes a mistake, intentional or inadvertent, the citizen(s) affected must have a fair right to redress and appropriate and just compensation. The lately-popular concept of "qualified immunity", and any doctrine based upon it, is judicially-created and is not found within the Federal or State Constitutions.

Holding the State accountable for its mistakes only makes sense. This bill should not even be necessary. Were it not for the extent coven of successful personal-injury attorneys (who have successfully defended "qualified immunity" on behalf of poorly-trained and/or malicious State employees) the basic concept of fairness to all parties in a dispute would have resulted in the demise of this concept long ago.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander. The State must not be allowed to "get away with murder". Period.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony to the Committee.

Sincerely,



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