

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar in Support of SB 295  
Before the Senate Judiciary and  
Ballot Measure 110 Implementation Committee**

March 4, 2021

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

The Oregon State Bar supports SB 295, which provides much needed clarity to when and how a criminal defendant may be referred to the Oregon State Hospital.

Ensuring that criminal defendants are able to aid and assist in their own defense is a critical piece of our criminal justice system. When a defendant lacks the fitness to proceed, it is appropriate that they receive the medical care they need in order to return them to health. By the same token, it is important that defendants not be confined to the Oregon State Hospital longer than is necessary and that they be returned to their community when medically appropriate. SB 295 balances these important needs.

SB 295 is a consensus product that reflects the work of a broad group of stakeholders, and the Oregon State Bar very much appreciates the work of everyone who participated.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katherine Denning  
Chair, Oregon State Bar Public Affairs Committee