

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2523
BEFORE HOUSE JUDICIARY CIVIL LAW SUBCOMMITTEE
MARCH 8, 2021**

**PRESENTED BY: ERIN M. PETTIGREW, ACCESS FOR JUSTICE COUNSEL FOR
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Power, Vice Chair Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erin M. Pettigrew, Access to Justice Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I am here to testify in support of HB 2523.

HB 2523 eliminates Department of Transportation driver license reinstatement fees for license suspensions that were imposed pursuant to former ORS 809.210. License suspensions under former ORS 809.210 occurred because a driver failed to either pay a court-imposed fine or to comply with conditions on which payment of a fine was suspended by a court in a traffic case.

HB 2523 increases equity and fairness by allowing the possibility of license reinstatement for individuals who are not able to pay the license reinstatement fee and were suspended because they could not pay a court fine in the first place. OJD supports efforts to remove unnecessary barriers and disproportionate outcomes based on the imposition of court fines and fees. And this bill is consistent with OJD's 2020-2021 Strategic Campaign, Commitment 1, Initiative 1.2.

OJD supports the bill as introduced because of the connection between license suspensions under former ORS 809.810 and unpaid court debt. The new -1 amendments to HB 2523 eliminate reinstatement fees for license suspensions imposed for reasons other than refusal or failure to pay court-ordered financial obligations. Because the -1 amendments are new and not vetted within the branch, OJD is neutral on the -1 amendments at this time.

Thank you for your time.