

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 187  
BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
MARCH 15, 2021**

**PRESENTED BY: HON. NAN WALLER, JUDGE, MULTNOMAH COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT;  
HON. SUZANNE CHANTI, LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

**OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

We offer this testimony on SB 187 on behalf of the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) as the co-chairs of the Chief Justice's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC).

OJD is neutral on SB 187.

OJD appreciates the opportunity to participate on the Legislative Work Group to Decriminalize Mental Illness that developed this legislation. Multiple judges and court staff have attended work group meetings. The Chief Justice's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee also has a subcommittee that focuses on civil commitment and assisted outpatient treatment and acknowledges that these are important and complicated issues. OJD understands that civil commitment statutes present a complex interplay between law and behavioral health. We appreciate the work that the legislative work group has done and support the continued effort of the Legislative Work Group to work on improvement of the civil commitment process. We value the voices and perspectives of all who engaged.