

**TESTIMONY ON SB 817  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND BALLOT MEASURE 110  
IMPLEMENTATION  
MARCH 16, 2021**

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

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, 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 express OJD's support for the fee reduction concepts in SB 817, and to request a few minor amendments described below.

SB 817 eliminates fines, fees and court costs associated with juvenile delinquency matters and provides for the appointment of court-appointed counsel at state expense. The bill also removes the parental support obligation and the cost of certain evaluations and services for youths in state custody.

Consistent with the goals of our 2020-2021 Strategic Campaign (Commitment 1, Initiative 1.2) OJD supports this effort to ensure that court fines and fees do not create unnecessary barriers or disproportionate outcomes. We are pleased to join our justice system partners and the Legislature to find ways to further equity and fairness for youth and families in the Juvenile Court system.

Some aspects of the bill will require one-time configuration changes to our state court case management system as well as business process changes, but we expect those changes can be achieved. In general, juvenile delinquency matters have very low collection rates and little impact on fee revenue generated to the state. Overall, we think this bill will simplify juvenile delinquency matters for courts, youths, and their parents and decrease unnecessary barriers and disproportionate outcomes.

While OJD generally supports the -1 amendments, we have identified two technical changes for future amendments as follows:

- Language should be added clarifying that although the provisions are "retroactive," meaning that judgements already imposed will be considered satisfied, fines and fees *already paid* before the effective date will not be reimbursed.
- Language further clarifying which common court documents juveniles and victims in delinquency cases can access without cost, while not imposing additional workload and costs for courts to provide transcripts of hearings.

These issues have been identified and shared with the proponents, and we look forward to working with Youth Rights and Justice and the other members of the work group to ensure workable solutions.

As the bill moves to a work session I am confident that we can continue to work with our partners to address these technical concerns and promote fine and fee justice in Oregon's court system and keep the fiscal and workload for courts low. Thank you for your time.