

April 1, 2021

Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Chair  
House Rules Committee  
900 Court Street NE, HR 170  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

We, the undersigned entities, urge your support of HB 2478 to preserve the integrity of attorney-client privilege in the public sector. The bill amends ORS 192.390 to explicitly clarify that attorney-client privileged communications are not subject to a 25-year expiration – maintaining current practice.

HB 2478 will guarantee that attorney-client communications will remain confidential and ensure that public sector clients have the same opportunity for confidentiality when seeking legal advice as private entities receive. Attorney-client privilege exists independently of Oregon Public Records law. However, a clarification and confirmation in statute is needed to ensure attorney-client privilege is treated the same in the public sector as it is in the private sector.

The nature of a person's employment – whether in the public or private sector – should not determine the nature or quality of legal services they have access to. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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