



**TO: Rep. Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair  
Sen. Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair  
Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety**

**FR: Michael Wu  
OR District Attorneys Association  
[michael@michaelwulaw.com](mailto:michael@michaelwulaw.com)**

**RE: Support for HB 5014**

April 1, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support from the Oregon District Attorneys Association for HB 5014.

HB 5014 appropriates money for the funding of the Oregon Department of Justice, a crucial partner of Oregon's District Attorneys in ensuring community safety.

In addition to our general support of this bill, ODAA urges support for the funding of Policy Option Package #311. This package would ensure that the Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division would be able to continue to support crime victims in Oregon through the Crime Victims' Compensation Program.

Oregon's District Attorneys work with and support the survivors of crime and are intimately aware of how important the Crime Victims' Compensation Program is for victims and survivors. This program helps to provide financial support for the survivors of crime, including but not limited to medical and counseling services, grief counseling and funeral expenses. On average over 5,500 applications are received each year and over 90% of claims are accepted. Last biennium the program paid over \$7 million to survivors across the state. The program has been a vital support and a source of comfort to victims and survivors as they recover from their traumas.

The program has historically received little to no General Fund support with the primary source of funding being punitive damages awards. However, these awards have been in decline while the need for the program's services remain high. We appreciate that General Fund dollars are a valuable resource and that the Legislature must make difficult choices in allocating them, but we support the use of these funds to ensure the adequate funding of a program that provides meaningful support to crime survivors. We are also thankful that the Governor included this funding in her recommended budget.

We would respectfully urge the committee to support the passage of HB 5014.