



April 9, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5012

Oregon Judicial Department

Dear Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair Sollman, Senators Hansell and Prozanski, and Representatives Grayber, Kropf, Leif, and Stark,

Thank you for the opportunity to briefly testify about the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) budget. AOC strongly supports the budget requests of OJD, one of our key partners in the delivery of core public safety and justice services for all Oregonians.

As you all know, the state and counties have numerous [partnerships](#) in the delivery of core public services for all Oregonians. The County-OJD partnership is one of the most important of those - and includes many aspects. Here are just a few:

- Our trial courts function side-by-side with many important parts of our combined justice system, such as services from the county sheriff, community corrections, and the county juvenile department, to name just a few.
- Counties and OJD also work closely on a longstanding joint task force to prioritize the replacement and renovation of our aging courthouses. The Capitol Construction Subcommittee will be hearing more about those ongoing projects and priorities as the legislative session progresses, including testimony from county commissioners and judges.
- Counties also work closely with OJD to help urge funding for an adequate number of trial court judges to handle caseloads. This Subcommittee will likely hear more about that, including testimony for county commissioners and judges.

In short, AOC strongly encourages this Subcommittee to fully fund the budget requests made by the Oregon Judicial Department. OJD is the center of our justice system and needs to be fully funded to ensure access to justice for every Oregonian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Bovett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Bovett
Legal Counsel and Legislative Director
Association of Oregon Counties

UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.

1201 Court St., Suite 300 | Salem, OR 97301-4110 | 503.585.8351 | www.oregoncounties.org