



April 13, 2021

Members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (“OADC”), which represents approximately 550 civil defense lawyers, we would like to offer our support of HB 5012.

OADC has consistently believed that the budget for the judiciary needs to be increased to adequately support and compensate its members, increase capacity and to safely provide essential services to all our citizens. These additional funds are necessary for the courts to fully recover from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on its overall operations, including the need to upgrade technology and safety protocols. One of the biggest issues facing the judiciary is the tremendous backlog of cases resulting from the Pandemic that will overburden the courts without these additional resources. The additional funds are also necessary in order to increase judicial salaries and attract the most qualified and talented members of the Bar to judicial appointments.

We support passage of HB 5012 as we believe it provides the baseline in funds and resources for the judiciary to properly function post-Pandemic and maintain its very important services to the community. If you would like further testimony from any of our members on the importance of the passage of this bill to civil practitioners here in Oregon, we would be happy to offer testimony. Thank you for your consideration of OADC’s input on this important bill.

Sincerely,

OADC Govt. Affairs Committee

Grant Stockton – President, OADC
Dan Schanz – Chair, OADC Government Affairs Committee
Lloyd Bernstein
Jeanne Loftis
Peter Tuenge
Molly Marcum
Rocky Dallum (Lobbyist)