

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar
In Support of HB 2176
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation**

April 21, 2021

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

The Oregon State Bar supports HB 2176, which reduces barriers to low-income Oregonians paying court ordered fees and creates a fairer collection process.

Currently courts must charge a minimum of \$50 before setting up a payment plan for a defendant who is unable to pay all court fees at once. HB 2176 permits the court to charge an amount that is appropriate in each case rather than a statutory minimum. By giving the courts greater discretion to set a minimum payment amount, the court and a defendant can work together to create a court fee repayment plan which sets the defendant up for a greater chance of success in meeting their financial responsibilities.

Likewise, the bill gives courts additional flexibility to settle judgments with debtors, so long as the settlement does not compromise amounts owned to victims. In this way, HB 2176 strikes an important balance between helping defendants meet court imposed financial obligations and ensuring that monies owed to crime victims are still collected.

The Oregon State Bar very much supports the court's efforts to promote a fairer collection process for all court ordered financial obligations and we urge the committee to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Denning
Oregon State Bar
Chair, Public Affairs Committee