

Hello and thank you for taking the time to hear me today. My name is David A. Hayes and I am a public defender in Marion County, though I suppose it would be prudent to make clear that I am here speaking as a resident of Marion county and not on behalf of my employer.

I am here to ask for an additional \$20 million to be directed towards trial level public defense services as suggested in the Governor's Recommended Budget. This would be a significant step forward in bring indigent defense in Oregon up to meeting the shortcoming identified in the 6th Amendment Center's report. The three main things that can be immediately addressed are bring attorney and support staff pay closer to parity, add case managers to the budget, and establish caseload limits for the attorneys.

I discovered recently that the pay for public employees is public record and can generally be accessed on the internet. I was shocked when I looked up my counterpart in the District Attorney's office by how much more they are paid. It is vital to be able to recruit and attract high quality both attorneys and support staff to protect the rights of the accused.

Adding case managers would contribute towards our ability to handle cases in a more holistic manner, being able to drill down into the root causes of why our clients are entering the criminal system and aiding us in crafting resolutions to the cases that address that root cause. This would benefit both our clients and the community.

Finally, and this is I believe the most important part, an increased budget would allow for additional staff to be hired such that attorneys could have reasonable case load limits. I have definitely seen the effects of this since starting this job, that there are only a finite number of hours in the day and I find myself constantly having to triage which cases I can do the most good in with my time. It is important to our clients that we have the time to thoroughly address every legal aspect of every case. If we don't have the time to defend our client's civil rights, they effectively don't exist. And civil rights only exist if they exist for everyone.

Let's continue improving public defense in Oregon. Please approve the \$20 million increase for trial level public defense services.