

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar in Support of SB 295 A
Before the House Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on Civil Law**

April 26, 2021

Chair Power and members of the committee,

The Oregon State Bar supports SB 295 A, which provides much needed clarity to when and how a criminal defendant may be referred to the Oregon State Hospital.

Ensuring that criminal defendants are able to aid and assist in their own defense is a critical piece of our criminal justice system. When a defendant lacks the fitness to proceed, it is appropriate that they receive the medical care they need in order to return them to health. By the same token, it is important that defendants not be confined to the Oregon State Hospital longer than is necessary and that they be returned to their community when medically appropriate. SB 295 A balances these important needs.

SB 295 A is a consensus bill that reflects the work of a broad group of stakeholders, and the Oregon State Bar very much appreciates the work of everyone who participated.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katherine Denning
Chair, Oregon State Bar Public Affairs Committee