

**TESTIMONY ON SB 736
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

**PRESENTED BY: ERIN PETTIGREW, ACCESS TO JUSTICE COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erin Pettigrew and I am providing testimony on behalf of the Oregon Judicial Department on Senate Bill 736, which would create a Task Force on Restorative Justice. The Judicial Department supports the goals of SB 736 and appreciates having a juvenile court judge being listed as a member.

Supporting this effort is consistent with the goals and commitments of OJD's Strategic Campaign, which includes a juvenile delinquency improvement program under our commitment to improve services and outcomes for people who are underserved, vulnerable, or marginalized. In addition, courts have been active participants in their communities in efforts to support restorative justice, reduce disparate outcomes in the justice system, and reduce incarceration of juveniles while maintaining public safety.

We would request a technical amendment to the bill that would provide that the Chief Justice appoint the juvenile court judge member. We believe that each branch of government should be able to select its own representatives to the task force, especially its own elected officials, and would ask that the appointing authority given to leaders of the legislative branch be extended to the head of the judicial branch.

Thank you.