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**TO:** Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
**FROM:** Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association  
**DATE:** February 2, 2021  
**RE:** Support for SB 422 - End Juvenile Administrative Fees in Oregon

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Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

**The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) supports the passage of Senate Bill 422 (Senator Manning) to end the assessment of fees to families with youth in Oregon's juvenile delinquency system.** Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments.

OCDLA is an organization of experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, Oregon citizens in criminal prosecutions at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon.

Thousands of young Oregonians and their families are currently charged a wide range of administrative fees by courts, state agencies, and local entities. Research shows that juvenile fees undermine the financial and psychological well-being of youth and their families. Harsh penalties for failure to pay juvenile fees compound the economic and emotional harm.

Juvenile fees also disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous and low-income youth, who are overrepresented at all stages of the juvenile system. For example, Black and Indigenous youth are three times more likely than White youth to be committed to the Oregon Youth Authority.

Despite the significant and racially disparate harm they impose on youth and their families, juvenile fees generate little or no net revenue for counties, courts, or the state. Across the board, revenue is declining while collection costs are substantial and increasing over time. In some cases, because families cannot afford to pay, collection costs exceed revenue.

Passing SB 422 will relieve vulnerable youth and families of regressive and racially discriminatory fees without significant cost, if any, to the government.

**OCDLA urges you and your colleagues to vote YES on SB 422.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mae Lee Browning  
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association