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**TO: House Committee On Judiciary**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: February 2, 2022**  
**RE: Support for HB 4121**

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Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mae Lee Browning and I am testifying on behalf of OCDLA.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit professional association for experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon.

OCDLA supports HB 4121 because we believe that the specialization of the Child Support Referee position would promote a problem-solving approach statewide. A lot of a public defense providers' work is helping their clients connect to social supports, such as housing, treatment, and mental health services. We look deeper than merely how the "problem" presents on the surface that is causing the person to appear in court because as human beings, most things are usually not that superficial or simplistic. OCDLA supports a problem-solving approach because it looks at the underlying reasons for why a person is not paying child support and helps craft a plan to help the person self-sustain.

Thank you for allowing OCDLA the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4121.

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