

TESTIMONY OF BRAD HOLBROOK

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Legislation: SB 1584

Date/Time: February 8, 2022 8:00am Place: Remote B

RE: Public Hearing and Possible Work Session/Argument in support of SB 1584

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members:

My name is Brad Holbrook. In 2018, I became the 17th exoneree from Oregon listed on the National Registry of Exonerations. I currently reside in Marion County. It is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of SB 1584. I was wrongfully convicted in Yamhill County, Oregon, in 2002 and fought for 16 years in Oregon's trial courts, appellate courts, and post-conviction courts before I was finally exonerated in 2018. I am grateful for the efforts of this committee to pass this important legislation. Thank you.

When a person gets locked up in prison, they see their jobs, hobbies, friends, and even family slip away. The longer a person is in state custody, the harder it becomes to regain what was lost. In many cases, it is impossible to regain what was lost. Being innocent, but locked up, does not change that. I paid an enormous price for a crime that I did not commit.

I was a practicing lawyer in California before I was wrongfully convicted in Oregon. I was released from prison in 2008, but had to fight another ten years before I was finally exonerated. In the meantime, I was unable to return to practice because my law license had been revoked. Even after I was exonerated by the Oregon courts in 2018, I had to prove my innocence again to a California court to reinstate my law license. That process took another three years, and I was finally reinstated last year in 2021. And now, I am forced to repeat the process yet again to prove to the Oregon State Bar and the Oregon Supreme Court that I am worthy of a law license here in Oregon as well.

Over the past 20 years since my wrongful conviction, I have accepted work wherever I can get it just to survive. Being released into a world where gas prices had increased from \$2.50 a gallon to almost \$5.00, and where jobs were scarce, was very tough. I have a family, including two small children, and I have done my best to provide for them. But it has not been easy. This compensation bill would enable people wrongfully convicted to reenter society in a dignified and successful manner.

SB 1584 would mean everything for me and my family. I thank you again for your hard work on this bill, and I look forward to its passage.

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