

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar in Support of SB 234
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee**

January 30, 2023

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

I am writing today in support of SB 234 on behalf of the Oregon State Bar and its Board of Governors. The Oregon State Bar (OSB) is a public corporation and an instrumentality of the court with over 15,000 active members. The Oregon State Bar serves the public interest by: regulating the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services; supporting the judiciary and improving the administration of justice; and advancing a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system.

SB 234 will allow the courts and the bar to collect more accurate and complete information about those using our court system, in order to more fully evaluate disparities in the delivery of legal services, and make the best decisions possible as we both strive to make our courts open and accessible to all Oregonians.

Importantly this bill will also allow the courts and the bar to keep this information confidential to the extent necessary to protect personal information, while also allowing aggregate data to be released so long as it cannot identify individual persons.

The Oregon State Bar very much supports the court's efforts to study and evaluate how our justice system is used, and we believe that any additional data gathered as a result of this bill will help all of us advance the fair, inclusive and accessible justice system that Oregonians deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 234.

Sincerely,



Lee Ann Donaldson

Oregon State Bar President.