



Rep. Dacia Grayber, Chair

Rep. Rick Lewis, Vice Chair

Rep. Thuy Tran, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

**RE: Support for HB 2054**

February 28, 2023

Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon District Attorneys Association, our 36 Elected District Attorneys and over 400 Deputy District Attorneys we offer our strong support for HB 2054.

As this Committee will hear, Oregon's District Attorneys and Deputy District Attorneys prosecute the most serious criminal cases, from child sex abuse, domestic violence, to gang violence and fraud. Stalking, threats, and risk of physical and psychological harm by those they prosecute is not uncommon. They respond to homicides in the middle of the night, during the workday, and on weekends and work side by side with other law enforcement to build cases from the ground up. Their jobs are difficult, traumatic, and require exceptional personal sacrifice.

Today, many prosecutors are leaving the profession altogether in favor of more competitive, less stressful private sector jobs with better benefits or higher pay defense work. It's long overdue for career prosecutor benefits to reflect career prosecutor workloads by adding them to the Police and Fire PERS designation. DAs and DDAs are frequently statutorily defined as "law enforcement" throughout Oregon's legal codes. Along with police officers, parole officers, prison guards, firefighters, and 9-1-1 dispatchers, prosecutors are strike prohibited under Oregon law, because a general strike would represent such a profound threat to public safety. Yet they are not included in the Police Fire PERS designation.

ODAA is very appreciative of all of the individual county support for HB 2054 and the official NEUTRAL position of AOC. We know that Counties, on average, fund 75% of prosecution services (13% State and 12% Federal). Accordingly, we couldn't pursue this policy proposal without them and thank them for the recognition that this meaningful tool will make to ensure our Elected District Attorney and Deputy District Attorney jobs are competitive and keep our best and brightest in the public safety arena.

We believe this bill will serve as a vital recruitment and retention policy for District Attorney offices across the State and urge the Committee's support.