

**Testimony before Joint Committee on Ways and  
Means Subcommittee on Public Safety  
In support of House Bill 5512**

March 9, 2023

Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, and members of the committee,

My name is Lee Ann Donaldson and I am an attorney in Portland and a member of the current President of the Oregon State Bar. The mission of the Oregon State Bar is to serve justice and the public interest by promoting respect for the rule of law, by improving the quality of legal services, and by increasing access to justice. The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors urges this committee to support full funding for the Oregon Judicial Department.

The Judicial Branch touches the lives of thousands of Oregonians every day. From supporting crime victims, to facilitating Oregon business and economic development, to resolving issues for families in crisis, Oregon courts are a critical part of what makes Oregon work. Our courts work to resolve disputes that may seem big or small from the outside, but for those involved each case is important.

Fully funding the Judicial Branch will enable our courts to promote access to justice by working to fill critical gaps in service delivery. These include supporting a functioning pre-trial release system that protects victims and ensures fairness to those accused, and ensuring that the courts have the judicial resources needed to provide litigants with timely justice.

I would also like to express the bar's support for Policy Option Package 118, which would continue to direct state funding toward civil legal aid in Oregon. The Oregon State Bar is pleased to continue providing fiscal and regulatory oversight for Oregon's civil legal aid providers through the OSB Legal Services Program. The Bar has served in this capacity for the last 25 years and looks forward to continuing this partnership into the future. POP 118 also continues the Immigration Legal Services program established four years ago, providing valuable legal assistance to a community long recognized as having high levels of unmet legal need.

Finally, I would like to offer our support for two additional programs - the Oregon Law Commission and Council on Court Procedures, which are both funded through SB 5512. Both of these groups have served the Oregon the Oregon legal community for decades and we hope both are able to continue to do so for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Ann Donaldson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Lee Ann Donaldson  
President, Oregon State Bar Board of Governors