

Submitter: David Goldthorpe  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2308

HB 2308 is a solution to a long-time problem. Many District Attorneys across the state, unlike Judges, have been paid unfairly for a long time. There currently exists a two-tiered system that makes sure that I, and most of the 36 DAs in Oregon, are paid less than the DAs on the I-5 corridor. Even though we carry the same weight of accountability, same responsibilities as policy maker and top law enforcement official, same requirement that we run for re-election, yet for some reason we are paid significantly less. This is an even greater slap to the face when you consider that we rural DA's are still courtroom attorneys on top of all the previously mentioned responsibilities. As elected DAs in rural counties, we also respond to crime scenes in the middle of the night to assist our local law enforcement. The DAs in the biggest counties are politicians first and foremost, and rarely (if ever) see the inside of the courtroom once they are elected.

As if that weren't enough, Oregon passed an equal pay law, yet left this obviously illegal salary scheme in place. Legislators need to know that there are far more female elected DA's in the rural counties (lower paid tier) of Oregon, and only three in "Tier 1" of the salary scheme for the state.

Please support this bill. Thank you for your time.