

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF CURRY

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March 20, 2023

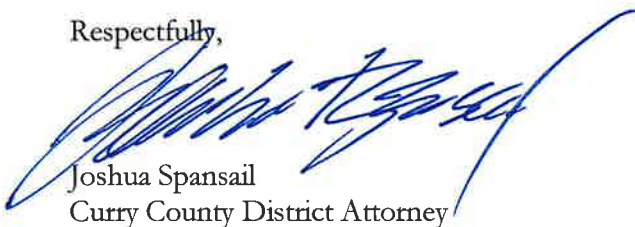
Chair Kropf and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write to offer my support for HB 2308, which eliminates the two-tier system of pay for the Elected District Attorney's in Oregon. Like judges and public defenders, Elected District Attorney compensation is determined by the State. However, unlike the judges and public defenders, District Attorneys are currently paid differently based on their county's population. This is not in law, but rather a system relied on by the Dept. of Administrative Services where District Attorneys that represent counties with more than 100,000 people are paid more than those in smaller, largely rural counties.

I believe this relies on a fundamental misunderstanding of the workload of rural District Attorneys. In Curry County, I appear in court daily managing a full caseload and provide on-call support for law enforcement 24 hours a day, much like a Deputy District Attorney in a larger county. I also respond to crime scenes in the middle of the night, review search warrants, and provide training for law enforcement among many other responsibilities. Along with those full-time duties, I handle all the administrative, budgetary, and political responsibilities that go along with being an Elected District Attorney. The fact that I am paid over \$21,000 less per year than my counterparts in the larger counties is not a fair and equitable outcome.

Please eliminate the two-tiers for District Attorneys and pass HB 2308.

Respectfully,



Joshua Spansail
Curry County District Attorney