

Submitter: Carrie Rasmussen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2308
Chair Kropf and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Greetings,

I want to indicate my support for HB2408, which eliminates the two-tier system of pay for elected district attorneys in Oregon.

During the past 24 years I have worked as a deputy district attorney in five counties in this state and was elected Hood River County District Attorney in 2020. I have had the opportunity to observe the different workloads of district attorneys in counties both large and small, urban and rural. Some district attorneys in larger counties have time-intensive political and administrative roles and may not carry a criminal caseload. The same role expectations apply to rural district attorneys as well, but I know that most, if not all, of us must also manage a caseload and regularly appear in court.

For example, I appear in court nearly every day and I take calls from law enforcement 24/7. I am the sole prosecutor assigned to our Mental Health Specialty Court. I cover all cases if my two deputies are out of the office. While the scope of work may be different among counties, our common goals of representing our communities and the State of Oregon as we seek fair and impartial justice are the same.

The salary distinctions are arbitrary and should be eliminated.

Respectfully,

Carrie Rasmussen
District Attorney
Hood River County, Oregon