



Pacific Green Party of Oregon
PO Box 86704
Portland, OR 97286
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April 1, 2023,

Re SB337-1

Chairs Kropf and Prozanski and members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees,

The Pacific Green Party and its members strongly support the provisions of SB317, as well as those of SB 413 and HB 2467.

The 2019 report from the Sixth Amendment Center and the testimony of organizations representing low income and BIPOC communities clearly show the current system is completely unacceptable. Not only does it entrench historical injustice but it is also unconstitutional and out of line with best practices.

We strongly support the creation of the Oregon Public Defense Commission. We need to move away from fee-based payments to hourly payments, improve the collection of data and ensure quality of services to vulnerable communities. We also urge you to vote in favor of SB 413 and HB 2467 which would facilitate the transition. A mechanism for adequate funding must also be secured for proper implementation.

The only opposition we see is coming from consortia who would have to modernize their practices. There have been proposals on how to facilitate the transition. Change is never comfortable but the current system is simply not serving justice.

Therefore we urge you to please support SB337-1 as well as SB 413 and HB 2467.

Sincerely,

Justin Filip, Eugene
CoChair State Coordinating Committee