

April 17, 2023

Dear legislator,

Re: SB 5532

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Dawn Krantz-Watts. I have been a private investigator in Oregon since 2007. I specialize in state and federal criminal defense work.

I came to this business because I had spent many years as a paralegal, doing trial work. Through trial work I was locating witnesses, conducting interviews, and working closely with the attorney preparing for trial. I knew I wanted to become a private investigator after doing similar work as a paralegal. I transitioned from my job as a paralegal to a criminal defense investigator, best decision I ever made.

My take home pay in 2007 was greater than it is today because the cost of living and my business expenses increased, but my wages working with the state have not. I continue to take state cases, but it has come to a point where I may be forced to stop accepting state cases.

There is a shortage of attorneys, representing defendants, but the shortage of criminal defense investigators is significant too. Sadly, good people are leaving the private investigator field because they cannot continue doing criminal defense work at \$40.00 an hour.

Public defense is a right given to those who cannot afford to pay for legal representation. Oregon has the power to resolve the lack of representation through better pay. Please support this bill to increase the pay for private investigators.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Dawn Krantz-Watts  
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