

Meagan A. Flynn
Chief Justice



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OREGON SUPREME COURT

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
HR D State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 807 Testimony

Dear Chair Kropf:

I am aware that questions have arisen about the Judicial Department's position on Senate Bill 807 and whether I, as Chief Justice, would intend to adopt rules if the bill becomes law.

As Chief Justice, one of my key priorities is to promote trust and confidence in the judiciary. Parties coming before the court must have confidence that their case will be decided by a judge who is not biased in favor of either side. But I also understand the structural concerns that have motivated the proposed change to the current statutory disqualification process. Harmonizing those competing policy concerns is a matter most appropriately left to the legislative branch. The Judicial Department is not taking a position in support of, or in opposition to, SB 807.

If this bill becomes law, I will exercise the authority that the bill grants to the Chief Justice to issue rules that would give effect to the new provisions in the statute.

I hope this information assists the committee in its work on SB 807.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meagan A. Flynn".

Meagan A. Flynn
Chief Justice