

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1595
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND BUSINESS
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**PRESENTED BY: AJA HOLLAND, SENIOR ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aja Holland, Senior Assistant General Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I want to start by thanking the numerous chief and regular sponsors for bringing this bill forward. OJD generally supports the goals of the measure. Increasing the limitations for exemptions from execution and garnishment and expanding actions for unlawful debt collection will help to mitigate disproportionate outcomes caused by the collection of judgments, including judgments for collection of court fines and fees, in alignment with our Justice Campaign, specifically our commitment to collaborate with community partners to improve services and access for people who are underserved, vulnerable, and marginalized.

My testimony is offered for informational purposes and to provide some observations as to how the implementation of this bill may affect our circuit courts. Also, it is OJD's understanding that an additional amendment is forthcoming and will address some technical concerns raised by OJD, in relation to the base bill. Based on that information, OJD is neutral on SB 1595.

SB 1595 increases the base amounts for several exemptions from execution and garnishment and requires the State Court Administrator (SCA) increase those amounts annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). OJD is familiar with this work as existing statutes require the SCA to annually adjust the Oregon Tort Claims Act limits and the statutory wrongful conviction compensation amounts. Prior to each July 1 effective date, updated amounts are sent out for public comment, finalized, and published on the OJD website with notice to interested parties. This measure will require the SCA to perform similar adjustments and calculations for certain execution and garnishment exemptions.

In addition to providing insight as to how this work will affect our circuit courts, I want to thank the proponents of the measure, including Senator Gorsek and his staff, Matt Swanson from SEIU, Chris Coughlin with Oregon Consumer Justice, and Sybil Hebb with the Oregon Law Center, for including OJD in these conversations and incorporating its feedback.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Aja Holland, Senior Assistant General Counsel, OJD Office of General

Counsel (OGC), at Aja.T.Holland@ojd.state.or.us or Kaiti Ferguson, Senior Staff Counsel, Office of the State Court Administrator (OSCA) at Kaiti.Ferguson@ojd.state.or.us.