

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1560
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**PRESENTED BY: KAITI FERGUSON, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaiti Ferguson, Senior Staff Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). We would like to thank Senator Dembrow, Representative Reynolds, and their staff for including OJD in the workgroup meetings regarding this concept in 2021 and 2022, during which OJD identified some areas of concern and other minor technical matters.

We understand that an amendment is forthcoming for this bill, which will create a task force to examine and reform medical release of adults in custody, and that a seat on the task force will be filled by the courts. We would request that amendment provide that the Chief Justice be the appointing authority for the court representative. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important work.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide this testimony.