



# JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

**District Attorney**  
**Criminal**

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Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Senate Bill 1541

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members:

As the District Attorney in Jackson County I see first-hand the need for additional Judges. I hope you will support the Oregon Judicial Department's request for new judicial positions contained in Senate Bill 1541. One of those positions is for Jackson County. Our County has been understaffed in our Courts for many years. The criminal docket is at capacity almost each session. It is not unusual for our Courts to have multiple cases set for trial each week. When the Court does not have enough Judges to cover the trials, it can cause lengthy delays to get the cases reset.

The issues in Jackson County are compounded by the public defense crisis. As additional public defense attorneys are brought on, we will need more time in the Court to process those cases. An additional Judge won't fix all of the issues but it will definitely help. In Jackson County our community partners really work well together, so I know this resource, if it is approved, will be used to provide greater access to justice for our community.

I urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Beth Heckert  
District Attorney