

Executive Director
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**Public Defender
of Marion County, Inc.**
Humanidad. Comunidad. Justicia.

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January 23, 2025

Representative Hartman
900 Court Street NE, H-487
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 2842

Dear Chair Hartman and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

My name is Shannon Wilson, and I am the director for the Public Defender of Marion County. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2842. Our nonprofit organization provides legal representation for low-income clients who qualify for court appointed counsel.

Many of our clients face significant housing, transportation, and other economic challenges that make it difficult for them to meaningfully engage in our legal processes. With the passage of HB 2842, securing safe and reliable childcare for appearances, removes a major obstacle for our clients and ensures more equitable access to justice for all community members.

Often, clients are left with little choice but to bring children with them to court. Sometimes the subject matter being addressed through the court system is traumatic and life changing. Safe and reliable childcare outside of the court setting is necessary for the wellbeing of all families and children within our community. Providing this service to our community also supports the continuation of well-informed legal decisions and efficient use of our limited court resources.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information in support of the passage of HB 2842.

Respectfully,

Shannon I. Wilson, Executive Director for the
Public Defender of Marion County