

TULLOS BECKETT LLC

CLAYTON M. TULLOS

JORDAN R. BECKETT

101 EAST 14TH AVE
EUGENE, OR 97401
541-515-1505

CLAYTON@TULLOSBECKETT.COM
JORDAN@TULLOSBECKETT.COM
CHLOE@TULLOSBECKETT.COM

February 4, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive comments on SB 474 and for your attention to public defense in Oregon. My name is Chloe Tesch and I am a practicing attorney at Tullos Beckett LLC—a private firm that deals with criminal defense and family law. I participated in the Criminal Defense Clinic at University of Oregon School of Law to gain real-world experience representing clients and to prepare for a career in public defense.

By participating in the Criminal Defense Clinic, I had a real wake-up call as to what it means to be an attorney. The clinic allowed me to directly serve people in my community and help address Oregon's public defense crisis. I worked on multiple cases from start to finish, which proved to be emotionally challenging for me. With the direct support that came from working closely with experienced attorneys at the Public Defender Services at Lane County, I learned the skills necessary to overcome these challenges and fight for a fair outcome for my clients.

All the academic knowledge and experience I had amassed from law school did not measure up to the real-life impacts of working closely with clients and I gained valuable insight into the life-long effects of the criminal system on indigent clients. Throughout my three years of law school and summer internships, the Criminal Defense Clinic is the **only** courtroom experience that I had. Were it not for the clinic, I would have struggled immensely in my transition into professional legal work.

I urge the committee to support continued funding for the law school public defense clinics through SB 474. By doing so, the legislature will ensure that more students receive the training they need to serve as public defenders, addressing a critical shortage of qualified attorneys and strengthening Oregon's justice system.

Sincerely,

/s/Chloe N. Tesch
Chloe N. Tesch, OSB 243850