



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2842  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

My name is Mae Lee Browning, Legislative Director of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. I submit this testimony on behalf of OCDLA in support of HB 2842.

OCDLA's 1,200 members statewide include public defense providers, private bar attorneys, investigators, experts, and law students. Our attorneys represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Our mission is championing justice, promoting individual rights, and supporting the legal defense community through education and advocacy.

Our members represent many court-involved parents across the state. Court-involved parents attend court for many different issues including juvenile dependency cases, domestic violence issues, criminal charges, treatment court, child custody issues, and other complex and sensitive matters. Many of our clients must bring their children to court because they lack resources for alternative childcare. The lack of childcare should not prevent parents from attending court or seeking the treatment or resources needed to remain healthy and living well.

Court Care provides court-involved parents a means to protect their children from the trauma of challenging court processes. By providing court-involved parents safe and appropriate childcare, it reduces one of the many barriers our clients face and helps improve access to justice.

The return on investment is huge, based on the number of children, and therefore families, served by Court Care. It is critical to continue the support of Mid-Valley Court and Community Care, a valuable service to the families and residents of Marion County.

Mae Lee Browning, J.D.  
Legislative Director  
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association