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**House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
Testimony in Support HB 2842 - Court and Community Care Program  
2/7/2025**

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center (OLC), thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 2842, which would provide funding to continue and expand Court and Community Care in Marion County.

OLC is a statewide non-profit law firm whose mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities in Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. We advocate for our clients and for the services and programs that help them overcome poverty. Some of the highest priority cases for our low-income clients involve critical matters such as housing, livelihoods, medical care, and physical safety.

The lack of safe and accessible childcare is a significant barrier to justice for low-income parents. Without reliable childcare, parents may be forced to miss court hearings, children may have to sit through proceedings they should not witness, or parents may be distracted or worried about their children during legal proceedings.

Court Care programs are a valuable resource for our clients, providing parents a better opportunity to participate in critical legal proceedings that will have profound impact on their lives. Passage and funding of HB 2842 will reduce a systemic barrier to justice by ensuring that parents and guardians can engage with the court process in Marion County without the added concern and expense of securing childcare.

We respectfully urge support of this measure, and thank you for your work for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Sybil Hebb

Oregon Law Center

***The Oregon Law Center's mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities in Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services.***