



ALCOHOL AND DRUG EVALUATION SERVICES OF PORTLAND



HB3174

My name is Deborah Ruiz, and I am the designated Alcohol and Drug Screening Specialist (ADSS) for Multnomah County, Columbia County, and Clatsop County Circuit Courts, as well as Troutdale, St. Helens, and Beaverton Municipal Courts.

I have been a certified ADSS since 1983. The ADSS screening fee is set by statute and has remained \$150 since 2003. I am submitting written testimony to express my support for an increase of the ADSS screening fee during the 2025 Legislative session.

The ADSS role is an essential part of the DUII process in the state of Oregon. We are not only integral in assisting the court with monitoring and compliance, we also aid individuals through the process of completing their requirements for their DUII Diversion or conviction.

The ADSS is often the first point of contact following an individual's entry into DUII Diversion or upon being convicted of DUII; we conduct the initial screening and refer them to a treatment program. We report to the court that a client has completed the screening, monitor their progress throughout the duration of treatment, and report noncompliance. Thus, the ADSS is a crucial link between our clients, treatment providers, and the courts.

For Diversion clients, the monitoring lasts for at least 1 year and potentially up to 1.5 years if the individual is granted an extension by the court. Individuals who are convicted can require monitoring for up to 3 years while on probation, or even longer if probation is extended. The ADSS is expected to attend hearings set by the court for individuals demonstrating noncompliance.

These monitoring and reporting requirements are time consuming and costly, especially with the necessity of hiring additional staff to help monitor clients for the time periods I mentioned above, and to also ensure we report promptly to the court. Wages, office space, equipment, supplies, and the technology to adhere to HIPPA compliance have all increased exponentially in the 22 years since the last fee increase in 2003.

The \$150 screening fee no longer sufficiently covers the scope of the ADSS's role, and this fee increase will greatly facilitate our means to support our clients, the courts, the treatment providers, and our communities.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Deborah Ruiz