



February 22, 2025

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (“OADC”), which represents approximately 550 civil defense lawyers in the State of Oregon, we would like to offer our support of SB 95.

SB 95 adds six additional trial judges to the bench statewide, spread out across five key counties: Crook, Douglas, Clackamas, Umatilla and Lane. This bill adds judges in 5 of 27 judicial districts, in key counties based on changing demographics of Oregon’s growing population and needs. It is only a drop in the bucket toward addressing our circuit court system’s workload challenges based on the 2015 National Center for State Courts (NCSC) workload model, which shows that Oregon needs an additional 33 circuit court judges to serve our communities and manage caseloads effectively. Nonetheless, it is an important step in the right direction.

By taking action to meet our courts’ significant workload challenges, SB 95 will help our state move toward ensuring that everyone has meaningful access to prompt and fair resolution of disputes. The timely resolution of complex disputes, particularly complex civil disputes, requires adequate judge time and staff. This bill will increase judicial capacity and thus allow the judicial branch to better promote access, inclusion, innovation, and timely justice for all.

Access to justice is critical to our legal system. Adding judges in these key counties, even to focus on the criminal docket, can help to clear capacity and docket time as necessary to provide judges with more capacity to handle civil cases.

OADC urges your strong support of SB 95.

Sincerely,

OADC Government Affairs Committee

Daniel Larsen – President

Megan Cook – President-Elect

Kristen Curtis – Secretary/Treasurer, OADC

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