



## VANESSA CORNWALL

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Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
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DATE: February 24, 2025  
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
RE: SB 95, Relating to Judicial Positions

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

Lane County strongly supports SB 95, which would add 2 additional circuit court judges for Lane County. This is a crucial step in addressing our growing caseload, improving access to justice, and ensuring the efficiency of our court system. However, as we increase judicial capacity, it is equally important to invest in courthouse facility upgrades to ensure that our infrastructure can support these new positions.

As a rapidly growing county with an increasing caseload, Lane County's judicial system is under immense strain. The addition of 2 judges is a necessary step toward timely access to justice, reducing case backlogs, and improving court efficiency. Currently, Lane County judges are burdened with an overwhelming number of cases, ranging from criminal proceedings to civil disputes and family law matters. This heavy caseload results in significant delays in case resolution, impacting victims, defendants, families, and business who rely on courts for fair and prompt adjudication. With this addition, we can alleviate these pressures, allowing for quicker hearings, reduced wait times for trials, and a more efficient legal process.

Additionally, adding judges will increase access to justice for all residents of our community by limiting increased costs for litigants, prolonged pretrial detentions, and prolonged uncertainty for families navigating sensitive legal matters. This investment will also have positive ripple effects on courthouse-related activities. Court staff, attorneys, law enforcement, and community services all depend on a well-functioning judiciary. Reducing case backlogs will lead to better coordination among these entities, ultimately strengthening public trust in our legal system.

I strongly urge you to support SB 95 and consider the necessary funding and planning for facility improvements that will enable these new judicial positions to be effective. A well-equipped courthouse is essential to delivering timely, fair, and efficient justice for Lane County residents.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER