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Committed To, And Value, Offender Reformation, Services to Victims, Crime Prevention, And Community Restoration

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The Honorable Senator Anthony Broadman The Honorable Representative Paul Evans Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways And Means Subcommittee On Public Safety Oregon State Capitol 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Date: February 26, 2025

## Subject: Letter of Support for the Oregon Judicial Department and House Bill 5012

Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways And Means Subcommittee On Public Safety.

My name is Jeff Wood, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). OACCD is a statewide organization dedicated to enhancing public safety and promoting rehabilitation through effective community-based supervision and supports. Our association represents the leaders of community corrections agencies across the state, who are committed to delivering high-quality services that support justiceinvolved individuals in their successful reintegration into society.

I am writing this testimony to convey OACCD's support of the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) budget and House Bill 5012. Funding from this bill is necessary for ensuring the continued effectiveness and sustainability of our judicial system, which plays a vital role in upholding justice, protecting public safety, and offering rehabilitative opportunities to those under its supervision.

Over the years, community corrections agencies within Oregon have partnered with OJD to monitor those sentenced to probation by the circuit courts, utilize structured sanctions for technical violations, and support Specialty Courts across the state. More recently, OACCD represented agencies have also collaborated on pretrial assessment and release, which is why OACCD supports Policy Option Package (POP) 114. As you know POP 114 would increase the Release Assistance Officer (RAO) staffing levels in several circuit courts. We acknowledge that current staffing levels are insufficient to meet the statutory requirement for Release Assistance Officers (RAOs) to interview every person held for arraignment with new charges. This shortfall means that in some judicial districts, a pretrial release report, which includes a completed interview and criminal history check, is not available to the court and other parties at arraignment.



While POP 114 directly relates to the work of OACCD, we would also like to express our support of POP 101 (Courthouse Security), POP 106 (continued funding for unrepresented management), and POP 108 (New Judges and Support Staff). OACCD feels these additions would strengthen our judicial system and ensure that justice is served promptly and fairly

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to express our support of OJD and HB 5012.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further input on this important matter.

For additional information, please contact:

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