

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1007
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

**PRESENTED BY: AARON KNOTT, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
AND COMMUNICATIONS
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

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

While the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is neutral on Senate Bill (SB) 1007, we appreciate the need to provide relief to individuals wrongfully convicted and incarcerated for a crime they did not commit.

We are in active conversations with the proponents of the bill regarding possible amendments. One issue of particular importance for the smooth implementation of the bill relates to the effective date. As currently written, the bill has an emergency clause and takes effect upon passage. Section 4(1) states that the changes to ORS 30.657 and ORS 30.659 apply to pending wrongful conviction compensation actions that have not yet resulted in a final judgment.

The process changes in the bill that impact OJD are difficult for the department to implement without a specific effective date. Because of that, we have reached out to the proponents of the bill with a technical amendment that would provide a date-certain effective date.

We look forward to working with the bill's sponsors to further refine the bill in the days to come. That said, we are confident that we will be able to implement the bill upon passage and appreciate the engagement of the Forensic Justice Project and the Oregon Department of Justice in this work.