

Submitter: MacDaniel Reynolds  
On Behalf Of: Reynolds Defense Firm  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3180

In support of HB3180

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is MacDaniel Reynolds, and I've been an attorney here in Oregon since 1998. In 2024, my law firm, Reynolds Defense Firm, represented more than 850 people facing Oregon DUI charges and we regularly appear in 15 different Oregon Circuit Court courthouses, including in Washington County.

You've already heard that Washington County's courthouse is too small to house the judges and staff necessary to adequately serve the population it is responsible for, so, although

I agree wholeheartedly with that view, I won't repeat it here. Let me instead share two perspectives on why I believe this matters, one from a public policy view, and the other as a more practical view.

From the public policy perspective, if we want our citizens to follow the rules of law, then we must demonstrate that the rules of law are a priority. This is especially true for those involved as defendants in the criminal justice system. Please don't underestimate the importance of the courthouse experience, and especially the length of time of judicial interactions, on recidivism. Ask yourself which you think would be more impactful to you if you were facing a judge for sentencing – a judge who is rushed because dockets are too large, or a judge who is able to take the time to ask a few questions of you to be able to understand the human that he or she is about to sentence?

From a practical perspective, it now takes my attorneys almost twice as much courtroom time in Washington County as it did a few years ago to handle the same size caseload. I believe this is due, at least in part, to larger dockets. Larger dockets mean more attorneys waiting around in courtrooms for a judge's time. This doesn't just impact my firm - imagine the cost to the State for the public defenders sitting in those same courtrooms waiting for their turns as well.

I respect that there are a lot of requests for funding that this committee must evaluate, so I won't pretend to know where this request must fit within the hierarchy of demands. I will say that that HB3180 has my complete support, and I urge you to give it yours as well.

Sincerely,  
MacDaniel Reynolds, CEO  
Reynolds Defense Firm