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March 18, 2025

**Re: House Committee on Judiciary
Support of HB3180**

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express support for HB3180, which will finally provide the necessary funding for the replacement of the Washington County Courthouse. An updated building is crucial to meet the growing access to justice demands from the community.

I am the Executive Director of St. Andrew Legal Clinic, a 501(c)3 nonprofit family law firm founded 45 years ago. SALC is dedicated to supporting low-income individuals in all areas of domestic relations and juvenile protective proceedings. In 2024, we helped over 600 individuals with their Washington County specific family law matter. SALC established our Washington County office over 20 years ago, and our office has remained in the same location across the street from the Washington County Courthouse all this time. While we have seen an explosion of business and development around our office benefiting the vibrancy of our community, the courthouse has remained problematically the same and completely insufficient to meet the growing needs of the community.

Our clients are vulnerable individuals in crises looking to our Staff Attorneys to help stabilize their families. Our Staff Attorneys are in-and-out of the Washington County Courthouse every week. Access to the courthouse is necessary to obtain important remedies for our clients, such as but not limited to, emergency custody orders regarding safe parenting time plans, restraining orders to protect survivors from their abusers, and support orders to ensure that houses are not foreclosed on, and basic necessities are able to be met every month.

Our clients are everyday Oregonians, who need adequate space for their matters to be heard in front of a judge. Our clients need access to childcare while they seek legal assistance and appear in court. Our clients need assistance to complete complicated legal forms. Our clients need safe and confidential spaces to speak to an advocate or attorney, should they be

fortunate enough to have the funds to retain one. Currently, the Washington County Courthouse does not have the funds and space needed to meet our clients' needs.

Unlike other courthouses, Washington County is behind in the services and spaces offered to the community when it comes to the courthouse. Other counties are able to offer free childcare through their Court Care program. Other courthouses offer free and private work rooms where clients may meet with their attorneys confidentially or opposing parties may work amicably to reach an agreement. Facilitator offices in other courthouses are able to provide free computer services and community meeting spaces. And most importantly, other counties have been able to add judges to sufficiently meet the increasing number of legal matters our community members are initiating.

The courthouse plays an integral role in our community – it is place of justice. It is a place worthy of our investment. HB3180 is not about convenience but meeting the needs of our community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I request your support for HB3180.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maxine Tuan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maxine Tuan