



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 3180

March 17, 2025

Good afternoon Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I write to you today in strong support of HB 3180 which allocates \$1.25 million to the Washington County Courthouse Replacement Planning Project. Washington County is the second largest county in Oregon and is one of the fastest-growing counties. With this rapid growth, our communities need a high functioning justice system that has more accessible spaces, and services.

Last summer, I had the opportunity of touring the current Washington County Courthouse which is over 100 years old and is in desperate need of additional judges and courtrooms. The current Courthouse lacks trauma-informed spaces and confidential meeting rooms for attorneys to discuss sensitive matters with their clients. A few of the courtrooms do not have adequate space to ensure safety and accessibility, and many have outdated HVAC systems. Additionally, we have a shortage of judges and support staff which results in higher caseloads, less time to consider and make decisions, and often delays for litigants.

To adequately serve victims who are seeking justice and often have experienced traumatic events, Washington County needs a well functioning courthouse to prioritize safety, confidentiality, and trauma-informed responses. The decisions made in the courthouse can have a huge impact on people's lives, and they deserve to have their defense heard and considered carefully. With the limitations of the current Courthouse, that is often not possible.

HB 3180 and the \$1.25 million funding allocation will ensure public safety, adequate and timely justice, and aim to address many of the structural challenges with our current courthouse. This bill will allow Washington County to do comprehensive planning, assessment, design, and engineering to serve our rapidly growing community.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony, I strongly urge your support and passage of HB 3180.

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State Representative for HD 36