



Law Enforcement Supports Public Defense Funding: With Transparency & Accountability

Oregon's law enforcement partners remain committed to public safety in our communities and believe that the criminal justice system must operate reliably and responsibly to ensure the protection of all Oregonians.

We stand behind the need for a robust and sustainable budget for public defense. Upholding the Constitutional rights of individuals is paramount, and an effective defense is a critical component of that. We support funding that ensures consistent access to defense representation, regardless of which county an individual is facing criminal charges.

We support appropriate oversight and accountability for the Office of Public Defense Services.

When a crime is committed, accountability must be sought. The failure of our state's public defense system to provide everyone with access to counsel should not be borne on the backs of our community's public safety or our crime victims. Justice delayed for a defendant is also justice delayed for the crime victim. In addition, we do not believe that the premature release of potentially dangerous individuals is appropriate. Indigent defendants must be appointed defense counsel.

Your law enforcement partners look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature and stakeholders to find solutions to address this defense crisis while prioritizing public safety. We believe these solutions must include allowing consortiums to continue to operate in Oregon without limitation. Our system simply cannot meet the demand without them.

We urge your support for public defense funding that ensures resources are used efficiently and results are measurable.