

Submitter: Jacki Higgins
On Behalf Of: WCN Investigations
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5031

Good morning! I am Jacki Higgins, a licensed private investigator in Oregon. I work primarily criminal defense cases with a large majority of them from OPDC. I am so appreciative of all of your hard work over there. I imagine it has been a couple of trying years addressing the public defense crisis in Oregon.

I've read through the other testimonies that have been submitted so far and I concur with all of their points. I just want to add that having the increase sooner (July) rather than later (January) would be important to my business and everybody else that work tirelessly on public defense cases.

To delay the rate increase by 6 months further delays our ability to attract new PI's to the industry or to convince seasoned PI's to join the ranks and help out in the public defense sector. We would love to be a part of the solution to resolve the public defense crisis in Oregon.

Help us help the attorneys, taking work off of their plate by bringing our rate closer to the Fed rate and drawing the help of other good PI's that should be compensated for their valuable work.

Again, I respectfully submit this testimony and I really appreciate all that you are doing to help public safety and public defense in the great state of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Jacki Higgins