

Submitter: Kenneth Fandrem  
On Behalf Of: Licensed Private Investigators  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Public Safety  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5031

Good morning, I am writing in support of increasing Licensed Private Investigators hourly rate. I used to work in the public sector. My training classes, supplies, software, office equipment, office space and other expenses were paid for by city government. Now, I work for indigent clients supporting them through the legal process. I have a lot of expenses that include, office space, technology and office equipment, software, and training classes. I have to take on too many cases to keep my business profitable. A higher hourly wage would allow me to concentrate more on individual clients and reduce the number of hours I need to work to be profitable.

Additionally, I have been trying to recruit other qualified people to become Licensed Private Investigators. With more investigators, we can better assist attorneys while keeping our case loads smaller. I commonly hear from these qualified people that they could not afford to start a business and provide for their families at the rates currently offered. While discussing possible rate increases in the future, they often say that \$75 an hour would make it more attractive for them to assist indigent clients. These people are qualified trained professionals who offer skill sets advantageous to criminal defense in Oregon.

In closing, I would like to say again that I support the raising of the hourly rates for Licensed Private Investigators working for indigent defense in Oregon. Thank you.

Kenneth W. Fandrem