

Submitter: Erin Howell
On Behalf Of: Defense Investigators of Oregon
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5031

Chair Broadman, Members of the Committee:

I am a criminal defense investigator with 18 years of experience in criminal defense.

I support POP 104 and the increase in investigator pay, but ask that the implementation for the rate increase take effect July 2025.

Where there are not enough investigators, attorneys must do tasks that would otherwise be done by investigators. More investigators mean that these tasks can be done for less money, and attorneys can take more cases.

Recruiting and retaining investigators is a key component to resolving the public defense crisis in Oregon

I urge you to pass this increase and make it effective in July 2025 to prevent further delays in eliminating the backlog of unrepresented defendants awaiting representation.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Howell
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