

Submitter: Maalik Summer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3180

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee:

I am writing to express support for HB 3180 which provides funding to the Oregon Judicial Department for the Washington County courthouse replacement planning project. The courthouse in Hillsboro.

There are many reasons to replace the courthouse: our burgeoning community growth in Washington County, seismic safety concerns, space for attorneys to confidentially meet their clients, additional courtrooms for the increase in judicial officers we will likely need to address community needs over the years. I am writing to address what, to me, is the most significant and pressing concern.

I am a Washington County Circuit Court judge, a member of the community, and a person with a disability. Our courthouse is poorly equipped to deal with virtually every member of the disabled community. The system for hard of hearing parties is woefully outdated. In order to even get through the front door, a person with mobility issues must use an antiquated lift. The courtrooms are cramped and struggle to accommodate mobility devices. We have no space for support people who aid those with concentration difficulties during trial and no technology supporting screen readers that could assist visually impaired parties or attorneys.

All people who come to us seeking justice deserve to do so with dignity. I see employees here every day who admirably attempt to fill these gaps so everyone is treated with fairness but a patchwork system isn't real justice. A new courthouse would allow us to level the playing field and serve every member of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Maalik Summer

Washington County Circuit Court Judge