



March 20, 2025

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, members of the committee,

I am a criminal defense attorney with 13 years of experience. I am fairly new to the Oregon defense community, having spent most of my career working in Arizona.

I support POP 104 of the OPDC proposed budget, increasing investigator pay, as well as implementing the rate increase in July 2025.

While I am newer to Oregon's ongoing public defense crisis, it is already clear to me that we don't need to just add more defense attorneys, we also need to recruit and retain more qualified investigators. Working with qualified investigators with manageable workloads is essential to providing effective and efficient representation for indigent defendants.

I urge you to pass this increase and implement the rate increase in July 2025.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Henager', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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