



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Court Interpreter Services

**DATE:** July 1, 2013:  
**TO:** Freelance Certified Interpreters  
**FROM:** Kelly Mills, Program Manager, Court Interpreter Services  
**RE:** Court Interpreter Services OJD Budget Bill (HB 5016) - Increase to Certified Interpreters Contract Rates

I am pleased to inform you that the OJD Budget Bill (HB 5016) passed the full Ways and Means Committee this last Friday. There are still many more steps, however, until the budget is signed by the Governor, which means that OJD will be operating under a state budget Continuing Resolution until then. There also can be other positive and negative adjustments that may occur to the final 13-15 OJD budget from matters occurring in other bills. Hopefully, as you have heard, the OJD Budget Bill does contain funding to allow for an increase to certified interpreters contract rates. The targeted increase is to \$40 per hour, an overall increase of 23 percent, and it is a huge accomplishment and has been a long time coming! I believe it indicates the highest level of commitment and support by interpreters and stakeholders to provide access to our judicial system. There are many important priorities for the citizens of Oregon, and we are fortunate that interpreters' services and value have been recognized by the Legislature and supported by the Chief Justice as one of his budget priorities.

Subject to the funding level provided, OJD is currently planning an implementation date of October 1, 2013 for the proposed rate increase and other programmatic changes impacting interpreter contracting. I will be sending an invitation for later this month to certified interpreters to join the OJD in a discussion to answer questions concerning the OJD Budget Bill, budget issues in general, and to exchange ideas about interpreter payment protocols. I will schedule these over the lunch hour on a couple of different dates so that interpreters can find a convenient time to join.

Best regards,

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