



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 26, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

RE: Senate Bill 93

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Cindy Booth, Transition and Reentry Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 93 which passed the Senate in early March.

What this Bill Does

Senate Bill 93 will ensure DOC has statutory authority to provide supplemental funds to county community corrections agencies for the purpose of reentry support for young (*under the age of 19*) DOC inmates releasing from OYA's physical custody.

Issue Addressed by this Bill

When a youthful DOC inmate has completed their sentence, placing him or her in suitable housing is critically important to ensure effective transition back to society. Youth offenders who are adjudicated and placed in an OYA facility and subsequently released from OYA facilities are placed in transition housing paid for by OYA because OYA is the supervising authority during their parole. However, youth convicted of a crime in DOC's legal custody, and housed in OYA facilities, release to their county of record and are supervised by county community (adult) corrections agencies while on post-prison supervision. Most counties do not have appropriate housing and reentry resources for these younger offenders.

DOC youth releasing to post-prison supervision need appropriate housing and supports to ensure successful reentry to the community. Most counties struggle to locate and provide adequate short-term community-based housing for these younger offenders.

Oregon has one of the lowest rates of recidivism in the country. Currently, 26.5% of offenders were convicted of a new felony crime within three years of their release from prison. DOC believes enhancing our transition options for youthful offenders can positively impact our recidivism. Less recidivism means fewer future victims and fewer costs to society.

Conclusion

SB 93 will ensure DOC has statutory authority to provide supplemental funds for reentry supports and services for those young DOC inmates, under the age of 19, who release to the community from an OYA facility. This legislation has **no** fiscal as it is enabling legislation.

Submitted by:

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