



**Testimony before the Joint Committee on Public Safety
In Support for HB 3194 Public Safety Package
April 3, 2013**

On behalf of Stand for Children members throughout the state, I write in support of House Bill 3194. We firmly believe this legislation would update and improve Oregon's public safety system. Improving the public safety system by emphasizing lower cost and more effective policies will allow for reinvestment of public safety dollars to improve services for victims, increase community corrections and other public safety efforts and invest in rehabilitation through increased access to services such as drug treatment.

We support the reforms in HB 3194 that would implement modest reforms to Measure 11 and Measure 57. These changes would help the state save money and reinvest those savings into the parts of our public safety system that have been decimated over the last decade.

These changes would also help realign our priorities for the future. Over the past several biennia, our state has increased spending on prisons and disinvesting in our schools. The latter has led to laying of teachers, shorting the school day and year, and narrowing the curriculum available to our children. The state has also cut funding for victim services and addiction and mental health treatment as a result of increased spending on prisons. As a state, we need to reset our priorities straight and use our tax dollars more effectively by preventing crime, not building more prisons. HB 3194 can take Oregon in the right direction.

Thank you for all of your thoughtful consideration of all the options available to you. We hope you support HB 3194.

Please contact me with any questions at tfick@stand.org.

Sincerely,

Toya Fick
Government Affairs Director
Stand for Children – Oregon