



April 2, 2013

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Co-Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Rep. Chris Garrett, Co-Chair
Rep. Andy Olson, Co-Chair
Oregon Legislative Assembly Joint Committee on Public Safety

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) and the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) I respectfully request your support of the Oregon Public Safety Package, HB 3194. This bill would make research-based, modest reforms in sentencing that would have positive impacts to the safety of Oregon's communities, reduce recidivism, and lower the growing cost of our public safety system.

HSCO is a coalition of 120 organizations and individuals founded in 1985 with the goal of establishing a place for collaboration, partnership, and dialogue between health, housing and human service providers. OPCA, a HSCO member, is a non-profit membership organization comprising Oregon's 31 community health centers that operate 201 health clinics statewide. Our member health centers provide coordinated care to 330,000 rural and/or medically underserved patients annually. Our patients are primarily uninsured or on Medicaid.

HSCO and OPCA have been full participants in Oregon's recent health transformation efforts. Through the leadership of the Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly, Oregon is showing the country how innovation, community empowerment, fiscal discipline and a focus on outcomes can positively change the status quo and build healthy communities. We used to spend our time, money and effort focusing on healthcare. To what end? Focusing on healthcare produced more healthcare. Do we want more healthcare? No, we want better health. With this understanding, you and your colleagues created a coordinated care organization model that decentralized state dollars to local communities, empowering them to improve health outcomes. This same philosophy should be applied to public safety.

We historically have spent our time, money and effort focusing on prosecution and incarceration. To what end? Focusing on prosecution and incarceration produces more prosecution and incarceration. Do we want more prosecution and incarceration or do we want to improve public safety so there is less crime to begin with and thus fewer criminals to prosecute and incarcerate?

Redirecting a portion of our prison budget to community corrections and to addiction and mental health treatment programs will produce less crime, which is what we all want. Community safety should be the goal. HB 3194 helps us achieve it. Please vote YES on HB 3194 and let's once again show the country how we do things differently here in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hummel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Hummel
State and Federal Policy Director