



## OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

6975 SW Sandburg Street, Suite 250 Tigard, Oregon 97223  
Ph: 503-641-0990 Fax: 503-641-0959 oba@oba-online.org www.oba-online.org

---

Chair Prozanski, Winters, Olson, Garrett and members of the committee,

The Oregon Business Association supports HB 3194 because it embodies the key policy features that will not only make Oregon safer, but bend the cost curve of public safety spending down and help Oregon keep its financial house in order.

HB 3194 represents the sound financial practices that successful Oregon businesses use; find smart ways to cut costs and reinvest those savings into products that will bring a return on investment. HB 3194 does just that, finds savings through smart, evidence based, cost effective programs and reinvests those savings back into those programs to reduce recidivism, giving us a return on our investment.

What HB 3194 does is get smart about how we punish, rehabilitate, and re-enter offenders into our society so they don't recidivate. HB 3194 does this without cutting critical components of our public safety system. HB 3194 makes Oregon's Public Safety system more effective from a public policy and cost savings stand point by utilizing appropriate judicial discretion in sentencing, using cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment tools in crafting sentences and reducing recidivism through the use of the most cost-effective and proven options while keeping the intent of mandatory minimum sentences intact.

### **OBA supports HB 3194 because it encompasses our public safety guiding principles:**

- 1. Safe Communities.** OBA supports actions that will continue the reduction of crime in Oregon; and OBA requires a safe environment for the conduct of business and for its members, their employees, customers and families.
- 2. Recognize Interconnectedness.** Addressing corrections reform is necessary if we are to provide essential state services and achieve other statewide goals such as the education goals of 40/40/20 or comprehensive revenue reform.
- 3. Control the Size of the Prison Population.** Increased incarceration is not the most effective way to make Oregon safer. Oregon needs to control the size of the inmate population and the associated cost (Oregon is projected to build 2,000 more prison beds at a construction and operational cost of \$600 million over the next 10 years). No beds and no bonds in the biennium.
- 4. Justice Reinvestment.** OBA supports the reinvestment of avoided costs in effective, evidence-based public safety programs that give taxpayers the most effective use of funds while continuing to reduce crime at a lower rate of incarceration.
- 5. Juvenile Justice.** OBA believes that the juvenile justice system is linked to the adult criminal justice system and that implementing similar changes to the juvenile justice system is a critical component to successful corrections reform.

**OBA's Policy Priorities for Public Safety this session include:**

1. **Judicial Discretion.** Restore appropriate judicial discretion to sentencing.
2. **Informed Decision Making in Sentencing.** Promote the use of cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment tools in crafting sentences.
3. **Improved Sentencing Guidelines.** Develop revisions to sentencing guidelines which incorporate the intent underlying the mandatory minimum sentencing initiatives, the principles of the 1989 sentencing guidelines and the advances in the understanding of the causes of and methods to reduce recidivism.
4. **Reduce Recidivism.** Reduce recidivism through the use of the most cost-effective and proven options.
  - a. Education
  - b. Community corrections
  - c. Drug and Alcohol Treatment
  - d. Education and Job Training
  - e. Visitation
5. **Eliminate the Need for New Prison Beds.** No beds and no bonds in the biennium.

OBA supports HB 3194 because it meets our goals of making Oregon safer and bending the cost curve on public safety spending down by relying on evidence based, cost effective programs rather than sound bites and fear tactics.