



www.oregonaction.org

Patty Katz
12160 SW Firwood Court
Beaverton, OR 97008

TO: Joint Committee on Public Safety
FR: Patty Katz, Oregon Action/ROAR (Re-Entry Organizations and Resources)
DA: April 3, 2013
RE: Support for HB 3194 Public Safety Package

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patty Katz; I am here today to talk about HB 3194.

I work for Oregon Action. Oregon Action is a broad-based, multi-racial community organization dedicated to economic justice. We assist people to organize on their own behalf with a focus on low-income people, people of color and others with limited access to traditional structures of power and policy-making. Through leadership development and community organizing, we provide the organizational base for participatory democracy, just communities and a fair economy.

I represent the Pacific Region as a governing board member for Faces & Voices of Recovery. We are a national organization with tens of thousands of individuals and organizations uniting for more effective action across the country.

Local and state recovery community organizations work in public ways with people in long-term recovery, families, friends and allies to affect positive changes. This is a national movement of a dedicated group of recovery advocates working to change perceptions, policies and laws to improve the lives of those in the recovery community.

In addition, I am on the steering committee for ROAR- Re-Entry Organizations and Resources.

ROAR is a collaboration of over 50 nonprofit, faith-based and government agencies that work as an alliance. We coordinate existing resources in the community, catalyze collaboration and mutual learning among re-entry organizations, and promote greater awareness of re-entry issues in the general public and government bodies.

It is our belief that successful re-entry results in more productive lives for these individuals, healthier families and neighborhoods, and greater public safety and economic stability for our community.

One of the successful products coming out of our efforts is the Re-Entry Transition Center. The center is under the umbrella of Mercy Corps NW; the "navigators" work very hard to help people become successful as they re-enter back into the community from incarceration. Many folks are able to return to work, re-unite with their families, go to school, and pay their fines and restitution to the victims of their crimes. Their amends to the community are to change their behaviors by becoming productive members of society.

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We need to get smart on crime by reinvesting a portion of corrections savings generated by reforms into victim services, community corrections, addiction and mental health treatment and **re-entry programs**. Ensuring that we have a strong public safety system is a part of creating the safe and strong communities we all want to live in.

When it comes to re-entry, I speak from experience. I am in long-term recovery, which means I haven't used drugs or alcohol in more than 13 years. What that means is I stopped hurting my family, I stopped breaking the law and I became a productive member of society. I have paid all of my restitution and I am not a burden to the taxpayers because I stopped going to jail and prison.

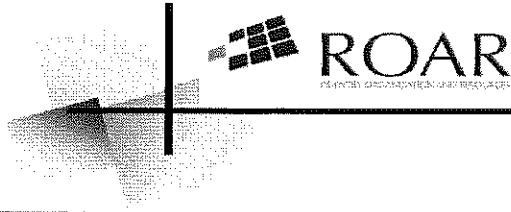
I know first-hand how the disease of addiction affected my behaviors. I disappointed my family. I disappointed myself. I didn't know that there were 20 million people suffering from addiction in the United States. I didn't know how to stop using drugs and thought it was a moral issue and not a treatable disease. The last time those doors closed behind me, I was almost relieved that my behaviors were going to be interrupted. While incarcerated, I was able to access drug treatment and a place to stay as I re-entered the community.

I am here to ask you make smart decisions on how we spend our valuable resources. We can improve the public safety system by emphasizing lower cost and more effective policies.

The dollars we save by reasonable sentencing 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.

Today I am a productive member of society; I received the resources I needed to be who I am today. I am asking that as we spend our resources, please remember that people are resources, too. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Again, I ask your support for HB 3194 and I urge the Committee to move this package forward.



Fostering integrated collaboration among groups offering support to previously incarcerated individuals during their reentry process.

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We need to get smart on crime by reinvesting a portion of corrections savings generated by reforms into victim services, community corrections, addiction and mental health treatment and **re-entry programs**. Ensuring that we have a strong public safety system is a part of creating the safe and strong communities we all want to live in.

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