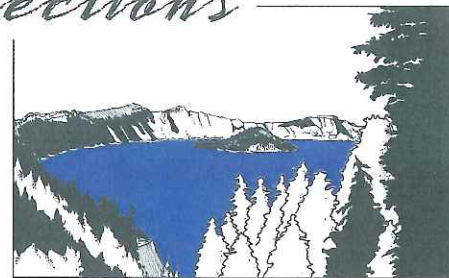


# Klamath County Community Corrections



Crater Lake National Park located in Klamath County

TO: Joint Committee on Public Safety  
FROM: *KPR* Kiki Parker-Rose, Director Klamath County Community Corrections  
DATE: April 3, 2013  
RE: Support of HB 3194 Public Safety Package

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Co-Chairs and members of the Committee:

My name is Kiki Parker-Rose and I am the Director of Klamath County Community Corrections.

I am here to testify today in support of the Oregon Public Safety Package, HB 3194.

I am honored today to be testifying with two of the many partners, community corrections has the opportunity to collaborate with in our efforts to improve public safety; Doug Cooper with Mercy Corps Northwest in Multnomah County and Paul Solomon with Sponsors in Lane County.

Our agencies received funding from the Criminal Justice Commission to provide re-entry services in our respective counties.

The Klamath story:

In 2007, our county operated a prisoner re-entry program. We brought inmates back to the Community Corrections Work Release Program six months prior to their formal prison release. The re-entry program provided interventions to these offenders, including alcohol and drug treatment, batterers' programs, job placement and educational services. These programs protected public safety by allowing offenders to transition back into the community with the appropriate tools necessary to be successful.

Before the new program began, Klamath County resident Jimmy was in and out of prison nine times for most of his adult life, each time falling back into old habits of addiction and crime. But, in 2009, after serving a sentence for theft and burglary, he was placed in the transition program before being released into the community.



Rather than a startling adjustment from the structured prison environment, the transition program helped Jimmy gradually reenter society. By working collaboratively with our community partners, this time his transition was successful. Today, he's a drug and alcohol counselor, helping addicts turn their lives around.

Jimmy's story is not unique. During the four years the program was in place, 84 percent of offenders successfully completed it, and 100% were released into clean and sober housing.

Despite initial promising results, budget cuts forced Klamath to end the transition program in 2011.

Klamath County is not exclusive in the difficulties we have had over the last few years. The reduction of grant in aid funds in the 2011-2013 budget resulted in our department eliminating corrections staff, contracts that provided services to victims and children of our offenders, sex offender services, alcohol and drug treatment and batterer's programs. Not only did Community Corrections experience the reductions, the reductions were felt by many of our community partners, who we could no longer fund to provide the valuable services needed to assist us with changing offender behavior.

HB 3194 gives Oregon the opportunity to invest in strategies that work in holding offenders accountable, while changing offender behavior. This investment allows local systems to take a holistic approach to public safety by investing in victim services, addiction programs, mental health programs, re-entry services and local law enforcement.

We've realized that we can't build our way out of crime with more and more prisons. If we're serious about public safety, we have to break the cycle of crime and addiction. Re-Entry/Transition programs provide us the ability to successfully work with those offenders being released from prison.

HB 3194 allows us to continue to invest in these successful programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Again, I ask your support for HB 3194 and I strongly encourage the Committee to move this package forward.