



April 3, 2013

To: Joint Committee on Public Safety

From: Paul Solomon, Executive Director, Sponsors, Inc.

**Re: Support for HB 3194**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the Executive Director at Sponsors in Eugene. I am here to testify in support of HB 3194. Sponsors has been providing reentry services to men and women in Lane County since 1973. Sponsors has been a leader in the implementation of evidence based practices in prisoner reentry. In 2010, we opened a new 72 bed facility that is seen as "the model" for transitional housing in Oregon. This facility also houses our Byrne Grant/CJC funded Reentry Resource Center. As Doug and Kiki have described, the Reentry Resource Centers are one example of collaborative, community based programs that are cost effective and make our community safer.

In addition, Sponsors has put together a range of programs, based on research and best practices, that focus on the people at highest risk to re-offend and provide programming designed to address their needs and mitigate risk factors.

I believe that the reforms to Measure 11 and Measure 57 are needed to balance our public safety priorities and re-invest the savings in community corrections based programs – like reentry services, drug treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy and parole and probation. I also believe that we can still hold people accountable, while making modest reductions to their length of sentence. I would actually like to see us go even farther, offering earned time to people sentenced under Measure 11. Ultimately, we should be very concerned with whether or not we are able to provide the treatment and interventions that will decrease the likelihood of people re-offending. When these people succeed, they become family supporting, tax-paying, law abiding members of our community. When they fail, they create new victims, and drive costs at every juncture of the criminal justice system at great tax-payer expense.

I also believe that the public safety reinvestment portion of HB 3194 has the potential to represent a much needed shift, moving precious public safety funding from the state to the counties. Lane County's public safety

*Prisoner Reentry Services Since 1973*

Executive Board  
of Directors

Tom English, *Chair*  
Margaret Hallock, *Vice Chair*  
J. Norton Cabell, *Treasurer*  
Zoe Roman, *Secretary*

Joe Alsup  
Steve Christiansen  
Claudia Hardwick  
Tricia Hedin  
Dr. Steve Lambros  
Kevin Moore  
Cheryl Reinhart  
Hon. Ilisa Rooke-Ley  
Peter Shannon  
Barbara Shields  
Richie Weinman  
Kieran Walsh  
Larry Wibbenmeyer  
Dave Winett

Staff

Paul Solomon,  
*Executive Director*  
Ron Chase,  
*Executive Director Emeritus*  
Amy Cook,  
*Reentry Resource Center Director*  
Jen Jackson,  
*Mentorship Director*  
Theya McCown,  
*Women's Program Director*  
John Hawley, *Director of  
Finance and Administration*  
Michael Wright,  
*Men's Program Director*  
Tax ID # 93-0639815

system is on the verge of collapse. Decreased Community Corrections funding, coupled with the loss of federal timber subsidies, *have created a real public safety emergency*. We have disproportionately invested in our state prison system at the expense of funding for state police, victim services, and community corrections. We have a much better opportunity to provide meaningful interventions at the local level that will keep people out of prison, with proper funding. These more effective and efficient local control options need to be made robust as part of the reinvestment from state corrections savings.

Finally, if we don't pass HB3194, more money will be directed to DOC to pay for more prison beds at the expense of other public safety services.

Thank you for allowing us to testify. I look forward to your support of HB 3194.