



OREGON CURE

April 3, 2013

**CITIZENS UNITED FOR
REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS**

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To: Joint Committee on Public Safety
From: Gretchen Vala, Oregon CURE
RE: Support for HB 3194 Public Safety Package

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gretchen Vala and I'm the President of Oregon CURE which is a state chapter of National CURE. Our advocacy work in Oregon has led us to build working relationships with the Department of Corrections by educating family members on what to expect during the incarceration period and we also work with Community Corrections in Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties by educating family members as to the terms and conditions of post-prison supervision.

Oregon CURE supports HB 3194. CURE believes that states should develop comprehensive and restorative sentencing options, including but not limited to (1) diversion-from-prison programs (2) community corrections programs including residential facilities with rehabilitation programs such as alcohol and drug treatment, education, mental health services, job-skills development and job placement and (3) post-release assistance.

Community Corrections legislation should be enacted that financially supports such a plan, and provides incentives to counties to divert a segment of the prison population to community corrections. The use of alternative justice methods will reduce prison and jail costs, hold people accountable for their crimes, and, without compromising public safety, help people with criminal convictions successfully reintegrate into the community.

Governor Kitzhaber carefully chose the people who served on the Commission on Public Safety. I ask that you just as carefully consider the options set forth by the Commission which would halt the projected growth in the prison population and save taxpayers \$600 million during the next 10 years. I ask that you make the conscious decision to re-invest the savings generated by the 19 evidence-based policy options proposed by the committee into victim services, community corrections, addiction and mental health treatment and re-entry programs.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Vala
Oregon CURE, President



Our mission is to reduce crime by advocating for effective criminal justice policies and practices.