

Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities  
*Advocating for Services Oregonians Can't Live Without*

April 5, 2013

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Co-Chair  
Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair  
Representative Chris Garrett, Co-Chair  
Representative Andy Olson, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee On Public Safety

Re: HB 3194

Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

The Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities, consists of approximately eighty (80) individuals and organizations whose purpose is to advocate for services and programs that benefit the poorest, most frail and neediest among these populations.

We support HB 3194 and encourage your committee to recommend its passage by the legislature. As we understand the bill, it is focused on reforms which will allow the reallocation of resources within the correctional system to initiatives which have the potential to improve system outcomes as measured by lower recidivism rates and improved reintegration into society among other beneficial effects identified in The Commission on Public Safety's report to the Governor.

It is widely acknowledged that a significant percentage of our prison population suffer from mental illness or are addicted. The Commission on Public Safety's recommendations for initiatives such as special courts and mental health and addiction programs as well as putting greater emphasis on community corrections appear to be smarter investments for potential long term public benefit without sacrificing public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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cc: Committee Members

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