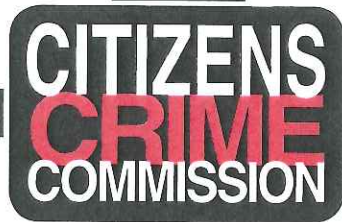


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Testimony of Suzanne Hayden
Citizens Crime Commission
Joint Public Safety Committee
April 3, 2013
Support for HB 3194

Good afternoon co-chairs and committee members, thank you for all your work and for giving me this opportunity to speak to you. My name is Suzanne Hayden, I am the Executive Director of the Citizens Crime Commission. The majority of my professional career from 1992 through 2010 was spent as a prosecutor in Multnomah County. I am here representing the companies and individuals that make up the Crime Commission in support of the Oregon Public Safety Package contained in HB 3194.

The work of the Governor's Public Safety Commission was an unprecedented comprehensive evaluation of the state of our state's policies, practices and trends in the use of prison and other corrections programs. The benefit of this examination and the resulting report is to highlight the strengths in our public safety system and the areas in need of adjustments and investments. The other benefit of this public examination, is the incredible capability we have now through technology and data analysis that did not exist in the past. This means you and the public can view the data and understand the circumstances in each of the counties in comparison to the rest of the state.

The unmistakable trend in how we use prison beds indicate we are increasingly using prison for non violent and property offenders. With projections in prison growth based on current laws, policies and practices, we will exceed our capacity and need to build more in the next decade at a cost predicted to exceed \$600 million. Is that where we should invest our public dollars for the best public safety outcomes?

You have heard from counties across the state struggling to adequately fund community corrections, police, victim services, reentry programs and treatment for addiction and mental health issues that feed criminal behavior. This has been a slow but steady shift in public investments away from evidence based efforts that reduce recidivism, towards increasing our prison capacity and we are at a decision point that requires the state leadership to act to correct the trend.

HB 3194 does not contain dramatic changes in sentencing or corrections policies. The elements are based on the data and research. We believe the changes will improve the way we do business and provides a plan to use public safety dollars more intentionally to achieve better public safety outcomes and better oversight for those outcomes. It allows communities to decide where to invest resources through designated state grants that will improve their local public safety systems and recognizes their efforts to optimize their use of prison beds. That just makes good business sense.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.