



Changing lives
Building communities
Creating opportunities

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rachel Post and I am the Public Policy Advisor at Central City Concern in Portland. Central City Concern provides comprehensive solutions to homelessness and promotes self-sufficiency to 13,000 individuals and families each year. I am here today to convey CCC's support of the Oregon Public Safety Package HB 3194, including sentencing reforms and the reinvestment in crime prevention services like treatment.

HB 3194 is important to my organization because we support and operate evidence based practice programming that assists thousands of people from all over the State of Oregon to overcome hardships, succeed in their mental health and substance use treatment and recover their lives so they can reunite with their families and contribute productively to their communities.

As a result of our programming, a 2008 independent study conducted by Portland State University found that participants of our outpatient treatment combined with clean and sober supported housing experienced a 95% reduction in drug use and a 93% reduction in criminal activity. Another program, in partnership with SE Works, and funded by the Department of Labor reduced recidivism over a 5 year period to 11% and was recognized as one of the top performing programs in the country. Finally, another program in partnership with VOA serving chronic offenders in the City of Portland reduced recidivism by 91%. The 87 graduates represent a collective total of 870 years of incarceration, with an estimated cost savings of over \$45 million in jail beds alone.

In real life terms, I have had the privilege of witnessing the many successes of our programs including seeing formerly incarcerated individuals successfully complete substance use treatment, hold their new born baby who was born free of drugs, regain custody of other children placed into foster care, become employed and on occasion, purchase their own homes.

We need to get smart on crime by reinvesting a portion of corrections savings generated by reforms into evidence based victim services, community corrections, addiction and mental health treatment and re-entry programs. Ensuring that we have a strong public safety system is a part of creating the safe and strong communities we all want to live in.

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