



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Corrections

Office of the Director  
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April 18, 2013

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem OR 97301

### **RE: Written Testimony on SB 843**

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 843, which creates a work group on corrections health care costs.

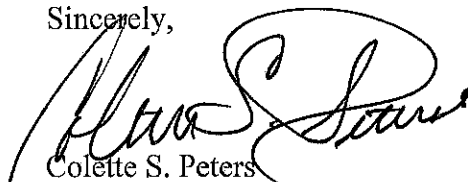
The Department of Corrections looks forward to working with experts in the field to identify ways to lower our health care costs without compromising our obligation to provide a community standard of care to the adults in our custody.

At this time, health care costs represent 20 percent of the Department's cost-per-day, the second largest cost component after security and housing (47 percent of cost-per-day). Adults enter our institutions in poor health – physically and medically ten years older than their chronological age. And, older adults (over age 61) represent the fastest growing portion of our population.

As the state and the nation transform its health care system, we are embarking on a new era. Our corrections will benefit from integrating these new initiatives that reduce health care costs and improve the wellbeing of the adults in our custody and on community supervision.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Colette S. Peters  
Director

c: The Honorable Jackie Winters

