



MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JASON MYERS, SHERIFF

MEASURE: HB 2685
EXHIBIT: 1
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SUBMITTED BY: Wood

May 1, 2013

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 2685

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Jeff Wood and I serve as the Parole & Probation Commander with the Marion County Sheriff's Office. In addition to representing the Sheriff's Office, I am here on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) and testifying in support of House Bill 2685.

As you are all aware, HB 2685 authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to contract with political subdivisions within the state and allow for the temporary release of inmates conveyed to another jurisdiction on the same terms as inmates confined in a DOC institution. To give you some color and context outlining the necessity of this bill, during the 2011 session, the legislature allocated one million dollars earmarked through a budget note to fund reentry services pilot projects. Although there were a series of significant delays, ultimately several counties, including Marion, were selected for funding. While the Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) were in the various states of implementation, DOC reported, in consultation with the Department of Justice, that they did not have the statutory authority to enter into these agreements, hence the need for this bill.

Locally in Marion County, about 600 individuals return to our community from state prison each year. Through our local Marion County Reentry Initiative (MCRI), we have achieved a significant degree of success in reducing our recidivism rate by almost half. Over the years, we have observed that successful transition and reentry hinges on front-loading support services to address risk factors linked to criminal activity. In addition to developing evidence-based employment, housing, and cognitive treatment programs, we have seen a remarkable degree of success through face-to-face contact and transitional planning prior to release. Modeled on successful reentry projects in Klamath and Umatilla Counties, HB 2685 and the legislative budget note funding will allow Marion County to screen and designate DOC inmates who are within 90-days of release, and move them to our work center and receive community-based services proven to deter criminal activity. As the state looks to pilot innovative ways to lower recidivism at a lower cost while also maintaining the highest degree of public safety, I believe HB 2685 will act in furtherance of these goals.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of House Bill 2685, and am available for any questions if needed.

For further information, please contact:

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