



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: May 9, 2013
TO: House Committee on Revenue
RE: HB 2087A6, relating to health care delivery

Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Williamson, and members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed HB 2087A and is in support of this measure. We ask that you recommend this measure “DO PASS” to the full Ways and Means Committee.

The bill allows counties (and other public corrections operators) to apply for medical assistance on behalf of those held in jail. This application allows for the reimbursement of inpatient services lasting greater than two days, provided the patient qualifies for Medicaid. Given the population in the Lane County jail, these savings could be significant.

Health care costs of those awaiting trial in jail and those serving sentences in jail is a matter of concern for counties across the nation. This issue is part of the National Association of Counties legislative platform, making it one of the highest priority issues for counties in the United States Congress. Their public safety platform describes the issue thusly:

- *Existing federal programs designed to provide health and mental health services, social services, educational and vocational training, and employment services should be made available to local correctional and detention facilities.*

Lane County operates both an adult jail and a youth detention facility. Health care costs within the adult facility were growing so quickly that Lane County recently contracted the services to a private firm. That contract is up for re-negotiation mid-way through 2014, and that is when the full cost savings potential of this bill would be realized for Lane County. The cost of this service is dependent upon the number of beds occupied, and jumps steeply for capacity over 220 beds. The current contract is valued \$1.99M annually.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY