



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety

RE: SB 873

Co-chairs Winters and Williamson, and committee members, I am William Hoefel, Health Services Administrator at the Oregon Department of Corrections. I am here to express the Department's support for 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 medically necessary 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 typically 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 agency will benefit from integrating these new initiatives that reduce health care costs and improve the wellbeing of the adults in our custody, and those on community supervision.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

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