



**Testimony of Jim Bernard, Commissioner, Clackamas County
In Support of HB 5050
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

Co-Chairs Williamson and Winters, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Clackamas County to voice our support of HB 5050. My name is Jim Bernard, and I am a Commissioner of Clackamas County.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners supports HB 5050 and has identified it as a key legislative priority for 2013. The bill provides Juvenile Crime Plan (JCP) Basic and Diversion funding that is administered by the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and allocated to County Juvenile Departments. The dollars that Clackamas County receives through these funding streams allow us to meet the needs of high risk youth and safely manage juvenile offenders.

JCP Basic funding is essential to safely maintain higher risk youth in the community, supporting local detention, shelter care, and intensive supervision of these youth. JCP Diversion funding is critical in our efforts to expand capacity to effectively treat and supervise high risk youth in the community. Diversion funding diverts youth from more costly residential or Youth Correctional Facility placements and is an essential part of local infrastructures to sustain services proven to reduce juvenile crime in our communities.

The Clackamas County Juvenile Department receives over \$470,000 in JCP Basic funds annually, allowing us to purchase shelter care beds, day treatment services, services for Latinos, Diversion services and services for Victim/Offender dialogues. In addition, our Juvenile Department receives \$400,000 in JCP Diversion funds annually, which allow us to purchase shelter care, services for minorities, sex offender treatment, and service learning opportunities.

JCP Basic and Diversion funding streams have yielded positive outcomes in Clackamas County. Since monies became available to counties in 1999, Clackamas County has witnessed a steady decline in recidivism; from 30.7% in 1998 to 19% in 2012. This funding also has led to enhanced community partnerships that have created opportunities for youth to earn restitution. In 2012 86.4% of Court ordered restitution was collected for victims. In addition, JCP funds

have allowed us to add capacity to support local shelter care resources, allowing families the ability to be actively engaged in counseling and success reunification of youth returning home. Further, the funds have enhanced our ability to have a continuum of interventions, allowing Juvenile Departments to provide intensive supervision to high risk youth. Diversion services had a 9.1% recidivism rate last year.

Investing in Juvenile Justice through JCP Funding is good business and good public policy. The investments are an efficient use of resources, yield fewer victims, prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system, and support local services and added capacity to treat at-risk youth in the community.

We strongly urge your support of HB 5050 and thank you for considering our testimony.