



CRAIG ROBERTS, Sheriff

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

February 11, 2014

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

As Clackamas County Sheriff, please accept this letter in support of HB 4110. This measure will give relief to our tax payers that incur the costs for inmate medical care, and to our overburdened jails that are struggling to keep beds open and services funded.

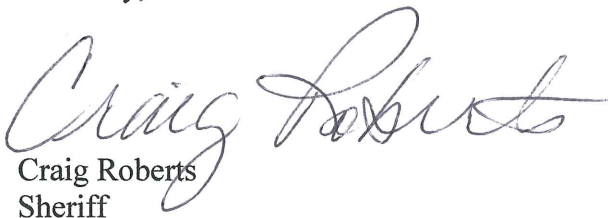
In Clackamas County we house 463 inmates. Below are some of our statistics from FY '12-'13:

- We spent 11.5% of our budget (\$2,269,809.00) on inmate medical care
- This accounted for nearly 50,000 health care visits to our jail medical department
- An additional 233 inmates received medical care outside of the jail at the cost of nearly \$500,000.00
- The above listed expenses occurred even though approximately 49% of individuals booked into our jail already have some form of health insurance

Due to the ongoing medical expenses that we have had to endure, the Clackamas County jail has been unable to open 26 jail beds (12 of which are mental health) since 2010. We have also had to reduce programs such as GED, parenting and life skills classes. All of these are contributing factors that have proven to reduce recidivism; even so, we have to put inmate medical care first.

It is unacceptable that insurers are allowed to deny reimbursement to an inmate that is in the Sheriff's custody, which shifts the healthcare costs to the county tax payers. I am asking you to please join me and my fellow Sheriffs in supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,


Craig Roberts
Sheriff

"Working Together to Make a Difference"

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