

May 20, 2016

Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

Partnership for Safety and Justice enthusiastically supports the re-appointment of Colette Peters as Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections.

Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) advances solutions to crime that ensure justice, equity, accountability and healing to achieve safe and strong communities.

Over the years we have known Director Peters, she has repeatedly advanced good public safety policy and open communication. Director Peters has repeatedly proven her commitment to smart public safety policy in her role at the Department of Corrections (DOC). She demonstrated equal ability and commitment in her prior role as Director of the Oregon Youth Authority and in various positions within the DOC. Oregon is extremely fortunate to have Director Peters at the head of its correctional system.

There are numerous examples of the ways Colette has proven to be an effective leader and collaborator. But, most notably, her work on the Commission on Public Safety helped guide the state towards a path of more effective and fair policies that do not unnecessarily rely on incarceration. This is not a traditional stance for a Director of corrections, and PSJ and its many supporters deeply appreciate her leadership and diplomacy in helping to navigate a path toward critical reform for our state.

Finally, because PSJ advocates for polices that help both victims of crime and people convicted of crime rebuild their lives, our work demands a strong appreciation of the essential humanity of all people impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. Director Peters' experience working as a juvenile counselor and as a victim advocate give her a perspective on the criminal justice and public safety system that we deeply value.

We encourage your confirmation of her re-appointment to the position of Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections.

Sincerely,



Andy Ko
Executive Director



Shannon Wight
Deputy Director