

**Testimony to the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee  
On Full Funding of the Justice Reinvestment Act for the 2015-17 Biennium  
Submitted by Bob Robison, February 9, 2015**

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I am the retired Victim Services Manager for Multnomah County Community Justice (parole and probation). In my career I implemented programs to prevent crime, worked with parole officers to rehabilitate offenders, and advocated on behalf of crime victims.

In semi-retirement I volunteer at several community-based victim service agencies, taught victimology at Portland State, and track public policy to improve our criminal justice system.

In 2013, the Oregon legislature passed the Justice Reinvestment Act (HB 3194). It provided a much-needed correction to Oregon's public safety system. This new path avoids the need to build or bond for a new prison for at least the next five years, and is estimated to save the state \$300 million during that same period.

The fundamental purpose of justice reinvestment was to reduce prison costs and re-invest those funds in proven community-based crime reduction and victim services.

Passing legislation was an important step, but only the first in a multi-year process to rebalance how Oregon prioritizes spending to increase public safety.

For justice reinvestment to succeed we must continue adequate funding. The promise we've seen from national research – and demonstrated in other states -- is a more cost-effective way to prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and help crime victims get safe and rebuild their lives.

Please remember that at least 40% of domestic violence survivors and 65% of sexual assault survivors do not report the crime to police\* -- they get help from the community, not the criminal justice system. Yet they are still victims of serious violence, and deserve our help.

We know that community-based victim services are not adequately funded.

I'm asking you to fully fund Justice Reinvestment in the 2015-2017 biennium, at \$58.5 million.

Thank you.

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\* US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization, 2013.