



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2805

February 23, 2015

Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Michael Van Patten and I am a Sergeant at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). I have worked for the Department of Corrections (DOC) for just short of 30 years. I am also the President of the Association of Oregon Corrections Employees (AOCE). AOCE represents almost 800 men and women working for DOC at the maximum security OSP, the medium security Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) and two minimum security institutions – Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) and South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC).

AOCE supports HB 2805. Each bargaining cycle AOCE is forced to compare its total compensation with other states when it is the counties in Oregon that DOC must compete with for correctional officers. The base pay of corrections deputies working for larger counties in Oregon is substantially higher than DOC officers, corporals and sergeants. This bill would level the playing field when DOC is trying to recruit officers and when trying to retain the qualified officers it has invested time and money in training. Additionally, the inmates at DOC are often times far more dangerous than the typical county inmate.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to support House Bill 2805.

Thank you,
Sgt. Michael Van Patten
AOCE President