



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

(503) 588-5212
(503) 588-5237-FAX

March 19, 2015

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Co-Chair Chip Shields
Co-Chair Jennifer Williamson
Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Sam Brentano
Janet Carlson
Kevin Cameron

RE: Support SB 5504 – Department of Corrections Budget

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Dear Co-Chairs Shield and Williamson:

John Lattimer


The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety to support SB 5504, the Department of Corrections budget, and maintain the community corrections baseline funding at \$244 million.

Marion County has seen its adult offender recidivism rate decline from 36% in 2002 to an all-time low of 14% in 2014. This decline would not have been possible without a successful partnership between the Oregon Department of Corrections Community Corrections Division and the Marion County Parole and Probation Division. This partnership has resulted in Marion County building a continuum of evidence based practices and validated assessment tools of customized services to address the criminogenic needs of the high to medium risk adult offender population. Services to this population include innovative programs such as the Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR), Senate Bill 416 Prison Diversion (pilot), the De Muniz Reentry Resource Center, and mentoring and treatment to address substance abuse and mental health disorders. Decreased recidivism translates to an increase in employment, maintaining sobriety, family reunification, stable housing, and a crime free lifestyle. Decreased recidivism also translates to fewer taxpayer funds being spent on incarceration.


The Community Corrections budget, along with the Justice Reinvestment Grants from the Criminal Justice Commission budget in the amount of \$58.5 million per the Governor's 2015-17 budget, are vital to the success of Marion County's reentry efforts in reducing recidivism.

Again, we urge your support of the Department of Corrections budget and the community corrections baseline funding at \$244 million, along with the Justice Reinvestment Grants at \$58.5 million. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Janet Carlson
Chair


Kevin Cameron
Vice Chair


Samuel A. Brentano
Commissioner