



To: House Business and Labor Committee

CURE Board Of Directors in support of HB3025

Chairs Holvey and members of the committee,

The board of directors from Oregon CURE is in support of HB3025.

Our mission is to support the incarcerated, their families and friends by advocating for effective criminal justice policies and practices. Our board consists of Gretchen Vala, Hank Schoeffel, Cheryl Ericson, Paul Ericson, LaRae Conley, Patty Katz, Randy Geer and Terry Stein.

We conduct monthly meetings with family members of adults in custody, people re-entering from incarceration and a speaker's panel of formerly incarcerated people. We offer a snapshot of life when folks enter, when they return and barriers people have to overcome as they try to become a successful member of society.

Many of the stories about those barriers are from folks trying to gain employment. Most people want to be considered for their skills, experience, education and qualifications. Many people have a good work history, sometimes their most current work experience is for a job of responsibility while they were living in prison.

People are turned down time after time and most often not even called in for an interview. It is very discouraging to use limited bus tickets, going all over town to drop off résumés and applications, with the pressures of knowing that their résumés could be discarded. People on supervision have supervision fees, restitution, possibly back child support and need to earn enough to cover their basic needs.

We support a Fair Chance for All, *Ban the Box*. We think it is valuable for employers to consider people for the skills they bring to each position, we also think it is of great value that each of the persons with a past felony conviction be allowed to explain in a face-to-face interview all of the things they have done to change their lives. We see eliminating "The Box" from the initial employment application is a solution for a fair chance for everyone.

We urge you to vote yes on this bill.