



OREGON CURE

**CITIZENS UNITED FOR
REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS**

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March 26, 2015

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Oregon CURE Board of Directors

Re: Support for HB 3436: Requires that the State Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision have 5 Members

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson and Members of the Committee:

Oregon CURE (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants) is a state chapter of National CURE. Our mission is to reduce crime by advocating for effective criminal justice policies, procedures and programs. Our Board of Directors includes Gretchen Vala, Hank Schoeffel, Cheryl Erickson, Paul Erickson, LaRae Conley, Patty Katz, Randy Geer and Terry Stein.

Oregon CURE wholeheartedly supports HB 3436, however, we believe it can be further enhanced.

As part of our advocacy work, we invited Brenda Carney Executive Director of the OBP&PPS (Oregon Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision) and Kristin Wings-Yanez, Board Chair of the OBP&PPS to meet with us at our December 2014 board meeting. During the presentation, Ms. Carney and Ms. Wings-Yanez invited us to attend board reviews to evaluate and experience the process first hand, which we have done.

The current board of parole is made up of 3 people with careers in law enforcement. Also in the hearings room (or on the phone) is the district attorney from the county of conviction, the victim's family / friends, a victim's advocate sponsored by the district attorney's office, family members / friends of the adult in custody and the person appearing before the parole board. The hearings are more of a repeat of the trial than an evaluation of the changes that the adult in custody has proven through DOC programs and acquired life skills.

We understand that the board has a great responsibility to the public, however, we feel that the addition of a defense attorney, and perhaps a business member from the community may offer a broader spectrum in determining whether or not a person can reenter society. By increasing the board from 3 to 5 people, this could be accomplished.

Oregon CURE board members would be honored to participate in a work group to further discuss the composition of the Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Oregon CURE Board of Directors



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