

# **OWRC Oregon Women's Rights Coalition. . . since 1971**

SB 939 Amended

April 7, 2015

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee

OWRC endorses the programs and concepts contained in SB 939 as amended.

Since 1990 the national prison population of female offenders has increased by nearly 50 percent.

The increase in parents in prison and the disruption in a child's life requires efforts to maintain the important connection between parent and child.

The Family Preservation Project at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility has served women and their minor children in the program well.

While the program serves a small segment of the inmate population it has seems to have been very effective.

Oregon's other program available to more of those incarcerated, Parenting Inside Out, was the subject of a nationally recognized study. Carefully crafted that program reduced recidivism, provided better parental participation in the lives of their children, provided a better mental attitude and reduced substance abuse.

However, the PIO program did not achieve the high level of reduced recidivism that the Family Preservation Project has. OWRC feels that the program outlined in SB 939 as amended should be supported.