



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

**District Attorney
Criminal**

Beth Heckert
District Attorney

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April 1, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee
The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
State Capital
900 Court Street NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97310-4048

RE: Implementation of HB 3194 Grant in Jackson County

To All Concerned Individuals:

This letter is in response to a request for information regarding the role of District Attorneys in the implementation of HB 3194 in Jackson County.

The Jackson County District Attorney's office participated in the 2013-2015 Justice Reinvestment Grant Program and our County received \$844,536. The Jackson County District Attorney's office did not receive any funds directly. We supported the use of these funds to assist in increasing our jail beds by 60 and to institute in-custody alcohol and drug treatment for males (26 beds) and females (24 beds). The additional beds in Jackson County's Jail has reduced our early release of offenders due to overcrowding, allowing for local sanctions on offenders. The additional beds also allows our drug court programs to have local sanctions available rather than revoke and send offenders to prison. We have seen a decline in prison intakes in 2014 from the prison intakes in 2013.

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has worked collaboratively with community and law enforcement partners to incorporate other programs that offer alternatives to prison sentences. A few of those include:

Family Community Court
Adult Drug Court

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Recovery Opportunity Court
Mental Health Court * just beginning this year

We will continue to support these alternative programs in the future, in order to ensure that the important limited resources of prison sentences is appropriately used in incidents threatening public safety. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Heckert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Beth Heckert
District Attorney