



MORROW COUNTY 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, Oregon 97310-4048

RE: Information about the implementation of HB 3194 in Morrow County

To All Concerned Individuals:

This letter is sent in response to a request for information regarding the role of the District Attorneys in implementation of HB 3194 in our respective counties.

Once passage of HB 3194 occurred, I informed our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) of the passage of the bill and the necessity of the LPSCC being an integral part of the local funding review process for Morrow County agencies requesting funding for HB 3194. While the first round of funding was a specific amount for each county, I informed our local agencies and LPSCC that funding in the future would most likely be based upon competitive grant process requiring implementation of evidence based practices resulting in cost reductions for the supervision/custody of criminal offenders.

I have also informed my local agencies and our LPSCC that the Morrow County District Attorney Office will not be requesting or receiving funding from HB 3194. I am concerned that having a grant source of funding would make it appear that I will become lenient in sentencing for offenders in order to make sure I receive grant funding in the future. My office will continue to work closely with agencies that receive funding and assist them in whatever way can.

As far as I am aware, Morrow County has implemented all sentencing reforms contained in HB 3194. The Morrow County Sheriff Office and our mental health provider Community Counseling Solutions have participated in the 2013-2015 Justice Reinvestment Grant Program and received funding. My office has not been involved in determining how those funds have been spent by the agencies.

Thank you for your time,

Justin W. Nelson
Morrow County District Attorney