

Kay D. Toran
President/CEO



Volunteers of America®

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Volunteers of America Oregon is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered within the state of Oregon that provides human services to populations in need.

May 14, 2015 Hearing – Joint Committee on Public Safety

Testimony by Kay Toran, President/CEO – Volunteers of America Oregon

Re: Funding for Justice Reinvestment in Criminal Justice Commission's Budget

To: Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am Kay Toran, President/CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon. I am here today to testify in support of the \$58.5 million funding for Justice Reinvestment in the Criminal Justice Commission's budget.

Volunteers of America Oregon has had a long, rich and effective history of involvement and leadership in a criminal justice reform agenda. Our founders 119 years ago had this as a top program priority.

Today, we recognize that there are evidence-based programs and services that support the offender population either in diverting this population to services that prevent the need for incarceration or providing wrap-around services to individuals re-entering our community after incarceration. We have outcome data that documents these services as a wise investment in terms of controlling costs and supporting rehabilitation.

Twelve years ago we pioneered and self-financed through foundation support a re-entry program called Community Partners Reinvestment (CPR) program. Later we implemented the Reentry Enhancement Coordination (REC). Both programs have demonstrated successful outcomes.

I have with me here today, Kathy Sévos, Program Director who is responsible for both programs and also our new "Moving Forward" Program that we have implemented from 3194 funding.

I believe that after you hear the detailed description and successful outcomes we have been able to achieve, you will recognize that investing in the Justice Reinvestment budget is both a smart investment, and also will support outcomes that allow individuals to become productive within our community.

Volunteers of America Oregon enthusiastically supports the \$58.5million dollar funding in the Criminal Justice Commission's budget.

At this time, allow me to introduce Kathy Sévos, Volunteers of America Oregon Program Director.

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