



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 2249

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Heidi Steward, Assistant Director of the Offender Management and Rehabilitation Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of HB 2249.

What the Bill Does:

HB 2249 revises the department's statutory authority to enter into discretionary agreements with counties for supplemental funding to provide re-entry supports and services for certain offenders under 25 years of age.

Background Information:

People releasing to community supervision need appropriate housing and supports to ensure successful re-entry. Many counties, especially our smaller counties, struggle to locate and provide adequate community-based housing for younger offenders who are transitioning from prison to the community.

During the 2013 session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 93, as enabling legislation, to ensure DOC had statutory authority to provide supplemental funds to county corrections agencies for the purpose of re-entry supports for young (*under the age of 19*) DOC inmates releasing from OYA's physical custody. SB 93 was codified in ORS 423.523.

Issues Addressed by the Bill

HB 2249 revises state law to include offenders up to age 25 and expands release categories to include any form of transitional leave, reduction in sentence, work release or program of conditional or supervised release authorized by law, in addition to those released to post-prison supervision (PPS).

This bill also repeals existing statute (ORS 423.523) and places the ORS outside the Community Corrections Act (ORS 423.500 to .560) to ensure these discretionary supplemental funds are not part of the grant-in-aid process of the Act.

Requested Action:

HB 2249 ensures the DOC has statutory authority to provide supplemental funds for re-entry supports for young DOC inmates (up to age 25) releasing to the community. This legislation has **no** fiscal as it revises enabling legislation.

For the reasons stated above, the DOC supports HB 2249, and encourages the committee to vote HB 2249 out of committee with a do pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

Heidi Steward, Assistant Director of Offender Management and Rehabilitation

heidi.r.steward@doc.state.or.us

Phone: (503) 945-9055