

Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Brian J. Judd Jr. I began working with reentry clients in 2011 as a house manager for Bridges to Change in Multnomah County. I became a full time Mentor with BTC in 2012, where I soon realized that many of the reentry clients we worked with faced the same challenges: Evictions that could have been avoided, utility bills in collections, student loans in default, bank accounts gone bad, child support modifications that never happened, court payments that were never suspended. Financial wreckage that our clients owned, but clearly never had any way to help prevent these barriers from growing.

I could safely state that throughout 5 plus years of work in reentry I have seen very few clients who did not have any financial consequences that could have been mitigated if they would have been provided with a modest amount of assistance. I can state that many of our clients have faced reentry with multiple compounding issues that if they had been offered the chance to address would have made the chance of their successful reintegration much higher.

Starting out with next to nothing is hard enough. The idea was that if we could somehow offer help getting people's financial records in order before they go into the system, the payback would be an immense return on investment. By nature, the earlier we tackle a problem the easier it is to solve. It is even more factual with financial situations as time adds interest & penalties to face down the road. As reentry services have grown, we have had more front line service providers gain the ability to see patterns and potential solutions to our client's unnecessary accumulation of barriers because they lacked the knowledge and resources to take normal, prudent actions to settle their affairs.

As many of the actions desired to help clients who are restricted by incarceration from enacting, it was soon determined that the ideal point and source of intercession was immediately prior to serving their time. Upon discerning that many of these preventative actions would require power of attorney or legal representation, it was logical that defense attorney's proximity and access to these clients would be the most effective and efficient means for delivery.

This pilot has the ability to save not just clients, but service providers and governmental resources far beyond estimation. I respectfully request full consideration and support for this bill.

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the Committee for this time.

Brian J .Judd Jr.