



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Senate Bill 692

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in regards to Senate Bill (SB) 692.

What the Bill Does:

SB 692 establishes a pilot program that will provide assistance to defendants in preparation for their upcoming incarceration with the DOC.

Background:

The assistance, as described in my conversations with Metropolitan Public Defender's Office and Senator Dembrow's Office, will focus on addressing financial, legal, and custodial obligations, as well as other issues as they arise.

Upon arrival at intake, DOC begins working with adults in custody (AICs) for their eventual return to the community. Addressing these significant issues is important in that it resolves financial and legal burdens that can grow over time, prevents AICs from participating in early release programs, and adds stress to the individual as they attempt to navigate complex and difficult systems from inside the institution walls.

What the Bill Does:

This pilot will not eliminate the need for DOC to continue to provide assistance and support to these issues. However, it will alleviate some of the most common factors individuals face during their incarceration. In addition, a social worker or similar type professional will be more equipped and able to build trust with a defendant to work through their legal and financial responsibilities as opposed to correctional staff, whom many entering DOC institutions are not inclined to trust.

DOC is grateful to see efforts such as this bill, which will improve the likelihood that an individual succeeds upon re-entry into the community.

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

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