



NORCOR CORRECTIONS FACILITIES

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Date: March 19, 2017

To: Chair Jeff Barker and, Co-Chairs Andy Olson , Jennifer Williamson, and members of the Judiciary Committee

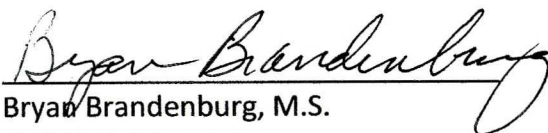
RE: HB 2104 – Requiring employer of security personnel in corrections institution to pay three times the regular rate of employee’s pay if employer requires employee to work in excess of 40 hours in any one week.

The Northern Oregon Correctional Organization (NORCOR) opposes HB 2104, which as currently introduced could impose devastating fiscal impacts on local county jails and juvenile detention centers. The bill as presented uses the definition of “security personnel in correctional institutions” from the Bureau of Labor and Industries. This definition does not distinguish between what level of government the employer is, state or county.

NORCOR is situated within four rural counties in the north central part of Oregon. Like many other rural areas of the Oregon the Counties have not recovered from many recession related financial burdens. The NORCOR facility works very closely with our Union to establish work rules, work conditions, hours and wages. This particular bill would be in direct conflict to the current schedule agreed to through the collective bargaining agreement. We currently utilize a bi-weekly work schedule that allows for considerable flexibility of the staff to schedule time off and to pick up voluntary overtime if they choose. Our use of mandatory overtime is minimal, about 500 hrs a year. However, even this small amount would be devastating to our budget. The bill would limit the ability of employers and employees from creating optimal working schedules and conditions.

The potential cost of this bill could easily put some jail facilities at risk of not being fiscally supported – decreasing public safety and increasing the demands on state services. We have worked diligently with the local Union to maintain the optimal working conditions that we currently have. As the regional entity we would strongly oppose taking the flexibility away from both the employer and employee with this restricting legislation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information and feedback.


Bryan Brandenburg, M.S.
NORCOR Administrator