



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: March 23, 2017

TO: Ways and Means sub-committee on Public Safety

RE: HB 5004, relating to the financial administration of the Department of Corrections

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Winters and Representative Stark:

Lane County establishes a series of legislative priorities in anticipation of each legislative assembly, and this session the adequacy of the Community Corrections budget appropriation is one of our “tier-one” priorities.

We request that you pay particular attention to discussions about the so-termed “opt-out” provision under Oregon law which is triggered if the Legislature is unable to adequately fund community corrections. For the coming biennium, any appropriation above \$272M will avoid the opt-out discussion. My experience at Lane County tells me our Board of Commissioners would seriously analyze the issues around this option and our prolonged budgetary shortfalls at the local level would undoubtedly factor into their decision on this topic. I can state that we would much prefer to avoid that issue, as we are convinced that our existing partnership with the Department of Corrections for local supervision provides the best outcomes and value for the residents of Lane County. **Thus we ask that you not agree with the Governor’s suggested cut to grant-in-aid funding of 5 percent.**

There are several other arenas of the Department’s budget we ask that you pay particular attention to:

- Lane County supports the work of the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program. If possible, please expand that program to additional counties.
- Lane County has participated in providing work release beds to the Department for females who will be released into Lane County. Several other counties have also collaborated with the Department in this realm, and as a result the agency has some additional headroom with respect to the female population. We ask that the \$17.5M in the Governor’s budget that would have gone to improvements at OSP-Minimum be instead shifted to Justice Reinvestment (in the Criminal Justice Commission’s budget).
- Lane County supports the Agency Request Budget for Offender Management and Rehabilitation. This portion of the budget directly reduces the DOC demand by providing funding to counties for early release transitioning at the local level. DOC pays counties a fraction of the daily rate that it costs DOC to keep them in prison.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY