



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Senate Bill 241

Chair Gelser and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, for the record, I am Kelly Raths, the Policy and Business Services Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to share information related to SB 241, and answer any questions.

What the Bill Does:

As introduced, SB 241 establishes a Bill of Rights for children of incarcerated parents and the Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents.

Background Information:

In 2001, the Oregon Legislature approved Senate Bill 133, putting into law the Children of Incarcerated Parents Project workgroup. DOC played a significant role in the workgroup and implemented many of its recommendations, including family-oriented visiting spaces, the use of technology to enhance connectivity, and the establishment of Parenting Inside Out classes. Since that time, the Governor's Reentry Council was established in 2007. In 2014, the council convened seven implementation teams, including the Family and Community Connections & Engagement Team that I co-chair with a colleague from the Department of Human Services.

In light of recent conversations with the Governor's Reentry Council and other stakeholders, we have agreed to amendments that will remove language establishing the task force. DOC and the Governor's Reentry Council are committed to working on these issues within the council's existing structure. The department appreciates stakeholders working with us on this important issue and is pleased this important work continues within the legislature and the state.

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

Submitted by:

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