



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

HB 3380: Statement of Support to Expand Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program

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House Judiciary Chairman Jeff Barker, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Steve Berger and I am the Director of Washington County Community Corrections. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD).

The OACCD supports HB 3380 which seeks to expand the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot program created during the 2015 regular legislative session.

The Oregon Legislature's HB 3503 created the ten year pilot project: Family Sentencing Alternative Program Pilot (FSAP) to divert qualified offenders who had custody of a minor child at the time of the offense from prison to probation. Based on a successful Washington State program that reduces recidivism and creates better outcomes for kids, the initiative was designed to provide parents an opportunity to achieve accountability through intensive supervision and services in the community while strengthening bonds with their children and increasing family stability.

While our pilot program in Oregon has shown promise, the original pilot limited participation to five specific counties: Deschutes, Jackson, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington. HB 3380 provides the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) the ability to broaden the number of counties eligible to participate. HB 3380 further expands FSAP participant eligibility by removing restrictions pilot FSAP programs found unduly limiting, such as prior convictions for felony DUII, person crimes, and pregnant females.

The OACCD looks forward to working together with DOC in developing a process for selecting counties to participate in the expanded pilot program. The five participating counties have found this program to be an important alternative for qualified offenders and key in providing important resources to help keep families together.

Our association notes this bill is similar to SB 895 assigned to the Senate Committee on Judiciary. The difference with HB 3380 being a provision granting the DOC authority to reduce the term of incarceration of an inmate as described in ORS 421.121 by a period of an additional six months if the inmate meets the specific eligibility. Allowing for a six month reduction opposed to Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL) will allow offenders to qualify for the Affordable Health Care Act, as well as other services inmates cannot qualify for in the community. This will allow community corrections to provide access to services they may not be able to afford or access if they are still considered inmates.

Thank you for your consideration.

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