



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

SB 690:

Statement of Support to Certificates of Good Standing

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Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee, my name is Truls Neal. I am Deputy Director of Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and member of the Joint Interim Task Force on Reentry, Employment and Housing. Today I am representing the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 690.

The Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors supports SB 690. Earning a Certificate of Good Standing will be helpful to those offenders who are working hard to get their lives back on track. This bill allows for an individual on post prison supervision or probation to petition to receive a Certificate of Good Standing which they can present when seeking employment, housing, or applying for certain licenses.

People who are successfully completing the conditions of their supervision and actively working to change their lives, often suffer from the collateral consequences of their involvement in the criminal justice system. Housing and employment options can be limited, as many landlords will not rent to convicted felons and employers can be reluctant to hire them.

Our criminal justice system primarily focuses on holding people accountable. But those who are changing their behavior and successfully meeting the conditions of their supervision are bearing the same consequences as those who recidivate and fail. Those who are successful in becoming good citizens should receive credit for the work they have done.

A Certificate of Good Standing will serve as a form of credit that can help reduce some barriers and allow them be considered for an interview or a chance to secure a place to live. This bill, while not eliminating all barriers, will help to eliminate some of them. This certificate will recognize and reward the positive efforts of parolees and probationers as they work to reintegrate into our communities.

I appreciate the work that has been done by committee members to make this a simple process and look forward to working with our partners to implement it.

In summary, I respectfully request that you support SB 690. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Submitted by:
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