



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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From: Paul Steigleder, Retired Deputy Sheriff, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Re: House Bill 3078

Date: Wednesday, April 12th, 2017

Position: Support

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 3078.

My name is Paul Steigleder. I spent nearly 30 years as a Deputy, Sergeant and Lieutenant with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. I have a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and graduated from the FBI National Academy. I am testifying in that capacity and as a representative of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership's mission is to unite and mobilize the voice of law enforcement in support of drug policy and criminal justice reforms that will make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, promoting alternatives to arrest and incarceration, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations.

I support the reforms in HB 3078 as someone who originally supported the passage of Ballot Measure 57 in 2008. During that time, we in law enforcement were watching people we arrested cycle in and out of jails and never do any real time. We believed that people weren't really being held accountable and needed to spend more time locked up to get the treatment they needed and to stop the cycle of property crimes.

Law enforcement largely supported Ballot Measure 57 because we believed it would make our communities safer. What we failed to do was look at what was driving those crimes. Now we know that almost everyone who commits Measure 57 drug and property crimes is driven by the co-morbidity of both mental illness and addiction. Locking these people up didn't help with those problems so they just came out and of course continued to reoffend.

We thought if you hold them for longer period of time they would get addiction treatment and mental health services; but they did not. Instead they came out with felony convictions and had a lack of ability to get jobs and housing, typical barriers we see post involvement in the criminal

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justice system. One of my fellow LEAP officers said “You can get over an addiction; you can’t get over a conviction.”

Measure 57 hasn’t done the job it was intended to do. Multnomah and Marion Counties have created programs that take a more effective approach by diverting these folks from prison, using less money than it would take to incarcerate them, then use some of those saved dollars to provide intensive supervision, addiction treatment and mental health services. We know that we need to give them that treatment, even if they don’t know they want it, and give it to them as many times as it takes. We take these people into our care and custody when they are in crisis, and we know what they need in order to flourish and become responsible members of our community and society.

What we are doing has not worked since the creation of Ballot Measure 57. We have seen the impact of M57; it is still not working, now it is time to do something different.

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