

Jregon Association of Community Corrections Directors

HB 3438 -1: Statement of Opposition

OACCD Executive Board Members

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Committed To, And Value, Offender Reformation, Services to Victims, Crime Prevention, And Community Restoration

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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 opposes the clause within the -1 amendment directing the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to waive "county of residence" requirements mandating a local Supervisory Authority (LSA) accept jurisdiction transfers from another county.

The current statutory requirement for inmates to return to their original county of residence has a long standing process to review transfers, or waivers. The review, referred to as a "field investigation", provides the LSA an opportunity to evaluate a waiver. During the field investigation the LSA evaluates many factors – not just the availability of a short term program bed. We prepare for the next steps, assess the long term success of transition, ability to comply with the conditions of release, input from the victim, family and support, and available resources.

The - 1 amendment removes the ability of the LSA to investigate proposed jurisdiction waivers of residence. Specifically, "...the board shall waive the residency condition under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection if the person has been accepted into a transitional housing program or a residential treatment program that will facilitate the person's reentry into the community, and the board shall order as a condition of post-prison supervision that the person reside for the first six months after release in the county in which the program is located."

The proposed clause noted above within the -1 amendment translates into a state mandate for a LSA to accept a jurisdictional transfer from another county. Further, the mandatory acceptance of the waiver is based upon a third party transition or residential program without consultation with the LSA or consideration of local resources and community impacts.

Our association values the state – county partnership providing the ability for each county to provide programs unique to each community, enhancing public safety based on what works best in their jurisdiction. The -1 one amendments eliminates our long standing practice of collaboration. We look forward to continuing our collaborative release planning process with the Department of Corrections and Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision in determining the next steps relating to inmate release planning.

Thank you for your consideration.

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