

**Roberta Phillip-Robbins**  
Chair



**Cheryl Collins**  
**Yaju Dharmarajah**  
**LaKeitha Elliott**  
**Nova Newcomer**  
**Bobbin Singh**

## **OREGON COUNCIL ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

Dear Members of the House Committee on Rules,

On behalf of the Oregon Council on Civil Rights, I respectfully request your support for HB 3078 -2 Amendment, The Safety and Savings Act. The Oregon Council on Civil Rights (OCCR), appointed by Commissioner Brad Avakian under ORS 659A.815, serves to advise the commissioner, BOLI and the state generally on matters related to education about and enforcement of civil rights in Oregon.

The mission of the OCCR is:

1. To study and monitor the causes, effects and solutions of unlawful discrimination in Oregon;
2. To consider legislative and agency proposals and actions;
3. To foster communication, goodwill, cooperation and conciliation among groups interested in civil rights across the state, and between these groups and the state; and
4. To advise the commissioner, and other interested state agencies or officials, on policies and procedures related to education about and enforcement of civil rights

The members of OCCR work to advise the Commissioner and the state generally on all matters related to education about and enforcement of civil rights in Oregon, including: the administration of protected class provisions; making recommendations on new and existing civil rights protections and rulemaking to administer civil rights law most effectively; and fostering better enforcement, outreach and education efforts to aggressively fight unlawful discrimination in Oregon.

The Council supports HB 3078 and the Public Safety Work Group recommendations: **(1) Extend Short-Term Transition Leave to 120 days, (2) Create a statewide 416 program, and (3) Remove Theft 1 and ID Theft from Measure 57.**

The number of women imprisoned in the Oregon Department of Corrections has nearly tripled over the past 20 years even though women are not committing more frequent or serious crimes. We are still on the razor's edge of opening a new women's prison. Seventy percent of women's convictions in Oregon in 2015 were for low level, addiction-driven drug and property crimes.

HB 3078, with the workgroup recommendations, is a targeted approach with mechanisms to address the overpopulation of the women's prison now and limited sentencing reforms that will become

operative in 2018 to curb taxpayer spending on more and more state prisons. Importantly, passing HB 3078 -2 Amendment will hold people accountable and ensure that we do not have to open a new women's prison this session, or for the next 10 years, with fiscal savings of \$20 million this session and more in future sessions.

Oregonians believe that treatment and rehabilitation are more important than longer prison sentences. Crimes will be repeated unless the underlying root causes of addiction-driven crimes are addressed. HB 3078 -2 Amendment will make communities safer by investing in local treatment, rehabilitation, and victims services. We need to take a closer look not only at what's driving this over-incarceration of all Oregonians but also specifically address the disproportionate impact of our criminal justice system on women. HB 3078 -2 Amendment is a strong first step to addressing this complicated issue. The OCCR supports HB 3078 -2 Amendment.

Respectfully,

Roberta Phillip-Robbins  
Chair, Oregon Council on Civil Rights