



May 28, 2017

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 895: Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program

Clackamas County supports SB 895: The Board of County Commissioners supports efforts to expand the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program established in 2015.

SB 895 modifies the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program (FSAP), preventing children from entering foster care, holding offenders accountable, and reducing prison bed utilization. Specifically, the FSAP allows some nonviolent offenders who have minor children to be eligible for an intensive supervision program in lieu of a prison sentence. The program includes special conditions of probation ranging from vocational training, parenting, and life skills classes to drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment.

In Clackamas County, the prison population at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is burgeoning. As the only Department of Corrections facility where women are housed, this growing population could create the need to open an additional prison to accommodate female prisoners. The opening and continued operation of a prison is an expensive proposition – upwards of \$100 per day per incarcerated person. Based on costs of a similar program in Washington, the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program could cost roughly \$31 per day per supervised offender – nearly 77% cost savings per offender.

Clackamas County Corrections strives to ensure that offenders being reintroduced into society have the tools and support they need to thrive and contribute to their families and communities. Supportive services for parents in the criminal justice system are particularly important, as they have been shown to break inter-generational cycles of crime.

Additionally, Clackamas County is eager to join currently participating counties like Multnomah and Washington County to ensure community correction solutions like the FSAP are available to the entire Portland metropolitan area.

We urge a “do pass” recommendation for SB 895.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.