

PAUL L. EVANS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 6, 2017

Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Sub-Committee on Public Safety
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Stark and Winters:

Thank you for your recent public hearing on House Bill 3067A (HB 3067A). As you know, HB 3067A was crafted to establish a pilot "court care" program for Marion and Polk Counties. Our team has been working on this concept for a while: they have already raised in excess of \$35,000 from private contributors; \$7,000 from local partners; and have identified available resources for securing long-term sustainability. The vehicle is nearly built, but it needs a sparkplug to move forward. A one-time allocation of \$200,000.00 is critical for the program to succeed. We cannot move forward without a little help.

While I understand the challenges of our dynamic budgetary environment, I write this letter because I firmly believe this program can – and will – make a profound difference in the lives of children, parents, and our community as whole through savings realized through reductions in recidivism. These days every choice about the budget is a hard one, but few offer the prospect for immediate impact that HB 3067A can. In communities where this program has been established, the outcomes for the parents (and the children) have been significantly better. Our team has worked hard to establish a comprehensive network of service providers to better integrate available care and support.

I accept that no single measure has the power to transform our public safety realities: it will take a lot of hands, a lot of teamwork. However, HB 3067A offers us an opportunity to ensure integration of services – while we provide for a better environment for children during court proceedings. While a child is under care of our team, we will have the capacity to provide assessment – we can align our programming and help both child and parents realize a different future. It reflects the ideal of good governance: a partnership between regional non-profit, private organizations and the web of national, state, and local capacities.

Big change is the result of a lot of small changes working in common cause. This measure gives us a tool to make a small, but important change. And for the people who live in Marion and Polk Counties – especially the rural areas of these counties – this program brings new tools for finding a path out of poverty. Please help our community. I strongly urge your support for HB 3067A.

Respectfully

Paul L. Evans

Cc: Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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