

June 12, 2017

First, let me apologize for not being able to be there in person. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 689. Over the last year or so, I have been fortunate enough to be involved with Senator Dembrow working on the Joint Task Force on Reentry, Employment and Housing. As the representative for Oregon Community Colleges, I believe this Reentry group we can direct significant improvements in the Oregon Correctional Reentry process.

I am aware that there have been a number of other groups working to improve the experience and success rates for individuals returning to society from our correctional facilities. This particular Task Force group has (16) members that truly represent all aspects of the reentry process. The group has had a number of organization present to the and Task Force to help ensure we have accurate information needed to create appropriate recommendations.

This Bill (SB 689) extends the sunset of the original Re-entry Task Force. It took a significant amount of time to create and organize the original group and I feel the group was just getting started when the group sunset in December 2016. This Bill will allow us to continue this important work with little to no fiscal impact to the State and helps to demonstrate efforts to lower the cost of Public Safety.

The critical goals of improving the experience of reentry, expand training and employment opportunities, assist with providing housing opportunities and create certificates and certification process for persons with a criminal conviction can be advanced by allowing the Task Force to continue.

I have worked within Correctional Facilities in three different states for over 30 years. Oregon continues to lead the Nation in the use of research-based treatment of incarcerated individuals. The Joint Task Force on Reentry has the same opportunity to make Oregon the leader in successful re- entry of incarcerated individual.

Please support SB 689 and allow this Task Force to continue this much needed work.

Thank you for taking the time to consider.



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