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### **SB 689:**

#### **Statement of Support to Reestablish the Task Force on Reentry, Employment, and Housing**

Co-Chairs Winters and Stark, and members of the Committee, my name is Truls Neal. I am the Deputy Director of Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and a member of the Task Force on Reentry, Employment, and Housing. I am testifying in support of SB 689 on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) and Multnomah County.

This task force has been instrumental in ensuring that the issues of reentry are at the forefront of Statewide policy making. Evidence of the work of this task force can be seen in this legislative session with the introduction of a number of bills including the Certificate of Good Standing and the expansion of Short Term Trans Leave.

It is important to maintain this focus on reentry. Much of our work is based in Evidence Based Practices and as a profession we have a lot of work to do to address the collateral consequences related to being involved in the criminal justice system. We need to continue to examine the laws and policies that affect how people are able to reintegrate back into their communities after spending time in jail or prison.

This task force has introduced important reentry conversations around employment and housing. Continuing to provide a mechanism to have these discussions is key to making needed improvements.

In summary, I respectfully request that you support SB 689. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Submitted by:  
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