



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

HB 5005

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*Committed To, And
Value, Offender
Reformation,
Services to Victims,
Crime Prevention,
And Community
Restoration*

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Chairs Senator Jackie Winters and Representative Duane Stark, members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly's Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety, my name is Steve Berger and I am the Director of Washington County Community Corrections. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today.

I wish to highlight the success of the state's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) created during the 2014 legislative session. I know many will testify today and describe successful programs and personal stories of recovery. However, the JRI is built upon the foundation of a strong and fully funded Community Corrections system. Without that foundation we undermine the proven JRI strategy. I note this as the Governors Balanced Budget does not provide current service level funding for community corrections and triggers the opt-out clause within SB 1145.

SB1145 was created during the 1995 Legislative Session and has proven successful as evidenced statewide in many ways through effective local programs, cost effective interventions, and sanctions. The community corrections system that has grown as a result of SB 1145 has two critical benefits for the state. First, our system improves public safety by lowering recidivism, which means fewer victims of crime in our communities. Second, we save taxpayers money both through improved public safety outcomes, and cost avoidance: Oregon's Community Corrections system reduces our use of more expensive prison and jails, reserving prison for the most serious offenders, while still keeping the community safe.

Today I am requesting you fully fund of Community Corrections and the JRI because of our public safety track record, and remind the committee, we are one of the few systems you can support that we know will save the state money in these budget strained times. We also ask you to consider the unintended consequences and costs associated with a funding reduction in JRI and Community Corrections triggering Opt-Out discussions in counties across the state.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Continue with Full Funding

- Governor's Balanced Budget for 2017 – 2019 cuts JRI funding below prior biennium service level.
- Since 2014, Community Corrections agencies have been working with public safety partners to invest Justice Reinvestment dollars into programs to keep people out of prison. In addition to supervision, services include:
 - Drug and alcohol treatment;
 - Mental health services;
 - Housing;
 - Educational & Employment assistance;
 - Mentoring & Parenting;

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Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Continue with Full Funding

- JRI represents a renewed commitment that had been absent for years. For some counties, JRI money has meant the opportunity to reinvest in programs that had been cut due to years of budget shortfalls.
- JRI has successfully reduced the use of prisons beds.
- Results are showing JRI works:
 - A statewide analysis done in 2015 shows that from December 2013 to December 2015 ninety-five percent (95%) of Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL) were successfully completed.
 - An outcomes report completed by Multnomah County in November 2016 showed that offenders on supervision in that county's Justice Reinvestment program had similar or better recidivism rates than offenders in the pre-Justice Reinvestment comparison group.
- JRI has proven to be the most successful in the counties where the public safety partners, including victims' advocates and the business community, have come together and agreed on programs and plans, providing opportunities for a new way of doing business where public safety partners, come together to collaborate.
- Partners are working in new ways to bring important programs and services together to create a comprehensive system that will increase public safety, reduce future victimization, and save taxpayer dollars.
- While the women's population is increasing and causing a conversation about the need to open OSP, several counties are able to work together as a result of JRI to find alternatives to placement in their counties to prevent OSP from having to house women. Before JRI, this collaboration would have been more difficult.

Community Corrections Funding:

- The \$239 million allocated in Governor's proposed budget for Community Corrections 1145 funding triggers the Opt-Out.
- \$272 million required to avoid the Opt-Out based upon October forecast.
 - Proposed budget and workload reductions would directly impact positions, services, and programming provided by Community Correction departments across the State.

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