


From the desk of

Karin Jones

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Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 3078A: The 2017 Safety and Savings Act

Clackamas County supports HB 3078A: The Board of County Commissioners supports efforts to update the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program and to realign certain drug and property crime sentencing laws. With these changes, Oregon has the opportunity to address the root causes of addiction and addiction-driven crime while yielding cost savings that can be reinvested in supervision and treatment services at the local level.

In the past 20 years, the number of women imprisoned in the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has nearly tripled. The current prison population at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville – DOC’s only facility where women are housed – is overcapacity. Roughly 70 percent of these convictions are for addiction-driven drug and property crimes. This burgeoning population may necessitate the opening of an additional facility to accommodate female prisoners.

Among other modest reforms, HB 3078A proposes a modification to the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program (FSAP), which would help keep children and families together by providing parents with intensive supervision and services instead of a prison sentence. These adjustments to the program will reduce prison bed utilization and keep some children from entering foster care while continuing to hold non-violent offenders accountable through special conditions of probation ranging from vocational training, parenting, and life skills classes to drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment. Based on a similar program in Washington, this program could yield cost savings of roughly \$70 per day per person over the opening and operation of an additional prison.

Clackamas County has experienced amazing outcomes as a result of the justice reinvestment strategies. We strongly support a sufficient amount of the roughly \$20 million in cost savings per biennium resulting from this bill be provided to local justice reinvestments programs. These additional dollars to counties will strengthen our local communities, reduce the need to build a new prison for female offenders, and save scarce local dollars that not only support reentry services, but also victim services.

In addition, Clackamas County is eager to join currently participating counties like Multnomah and Washington Counties in the FSAP and to deepen our work to divert people from prison into accountability and treatment for addiction-driven crimes. Clackamas County Community 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. By expanding the FSAP to include Clackamas County, we can ensure that community correction solutions are available to the entire Portland metropolitan area.

We urge a “do pass” recommendation for HB 3078A.

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