

FROM the desk of  
Representative Karin Pomer  


TO: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Jim Davis, United Seniors of Oregon & Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens  
DATE: June 26, 2017  
RE: Support for HB 3078A, the Safety and Savings Act

Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Nathanson, members of the committee,

The United Seniors of Oregon and Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens (OSCRC) support HB 3078B, the Safety and Savings Act. For many years, both United Seniors of Oregon and OSCRC have advocated for policies and funding that support Oregon's seniors.

HB 3078B is a targeted approach to address the overpopulation of Oregon's women's prison. With the passage of this bill, the state has a real opportunity to target our public safety dollars to local communities to hold people accountable and address the root causes of addiction and addiction-driven crime.

The Safety and Savings Act would mean cost-savings, community-based services, addiction treatment, and increased family stability, all of which make our communities safer and stronger.

As you know, due to budget constraints the legislature is currently considering making significant cuts to vital programs that serve low-income Oregonians, seniors and people with disabilities. More state resources spent on prisons means less money for programs that serve the people in our communities that are most in need of support.

**We believe that vulnerable seniors in Oregon would be better served by spending more of our public funds on human services, supports and rehabilitation than on keeping people locked up for nonviolent offenses. For this reason, we are in support of HB 3078.**

Sincerely,

*Jim Davis*  
Executive Director  
United Seniors of Oregon &  
Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens