



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

SB 1543: Support for -12 Amendments

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

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Senate Judiciary Chairman Floyd Prozanski, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Steve Berger and I am the Director of Washington County Community Corrections. I am providing written testimony in support of the -12 amendments on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). Our interest is in relation to the Advisory Committee membership and the application of current BIP standards to all genders.

The current OAR relating to BIP standards are not prescriptive in outlining the number of members, professions, disciplines, or areas of expertise represented other than to note: *“The Attorney General shall appoint an Advisory Committee composed of representatives from LSAs, BIPs and VPs, and of other members the Attorney General deems appropriate.”*

OACCD supports the proposed -12 language expanding the current membership with equal representation opposed to the initial change proposed identifying one specific criterion as a “psychologist or psychiatrist”. The -12 language inserts **“(1) The Attorney General shall appoint an advisory committee composed of membership experienced with evidence-based practices relating to risk, need, and responsivity specific to reducing recidivism that represent the diverse groups that interact with violence prevention and batterer intervention programs.”**

OACCD does not believe in a “one size fits all” approach in the proposed application of current BIP standards to all genders. While OACCD supports in general that DV services be available to people of all genders, it is important to note the current OAR relating to BIP standards does not address all forms of domestic violence and battering behavior. Current BIP standards outlined in OAR are sex-segregated and not inclusive to all who perpetrate DV. The current definition of a batterer is *“(a) An adult male 18 years of age or older who engages in “battering” against women; or (b) A male minor criminally convicted as an adult of conduct against women that constitutes “battering” in whole or in part.”* The current standards also state that a *“Victim means a female, including a past or present partner, subjected to battering. A victim may be under the age of 18. In no event shall the batterer be considered a victim for purposes of these rules.”* These outdated definitions need to be amended in order for services to be appropriate for people of all genders. Applying current standards designed to these definitions, for all genders, would not be effective or appropriate.

OACCD supports the -12 language directing the Advisory Committee **to develop separate standards for programs that address male defendants, female defendants, defendants offending against same-sex victims, and circumstances in which the defendant or victim is gender nonconforming; and “(b) Be based on scientific research and direct practice with both persons who have perpetrated and persons who have survived domestic violence.”.**

We look forward to continuing our collaborative participation with the Attorney General’s BIP Advisory Committee and the Department of Justice in determining the next steps relating to the BIP standards and advisory committee membership.

Thank you for your consideration

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