



**Testimony Regarding Budget Rebalance Proposal  
Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety  
July 24, 2020**

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

**Partnership for Safety and Justice, Unite Oregon, Beyond These Walls, and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility submit this testimony in regard to the budget rebalance proposal.**

Our country and our state are in a moment where the systemic and structural racism inherent in our criminal justice system is being widely recognized and called to account. While most attention has been focused on the system of policing, the carceral system is intrinsically interconnected and includes the systems of pre-trial detention, court adjudication, incarceration, and parole and probation.

The historic and systemic denial of access to resources has led to the mass victimization and mass criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color. For this reason, responses to harm need to be centered on the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

**That is why we focus our testimony today on the closure of state prisons and the need for reinvestment in healing and restoration for people in communities of color who have systemically been denied true public safety.**

Our communities have been talking about overincarceration, but what does this mean in Oregon? A brief look at population growth can serve as a snapshot: Since 1980,<sup>1</sup> Oregon's population has increased by 63%, while our prison population<sup>2</sup> has increased by nearly 350%. There were three prisons in Oregon in 1980; today there are 14.

**This means that during the last 40 years, Oregon's prison population grew 5.5 times faster than our overall population. One out of every 21 Black Oregonians is held in prison,<sup>3</sup> a rate that is 5.5 times greater than white people and places Oregon 7th in the nation for our incarceration rate of African Americans.<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/oregon-population>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/offender-population-trends.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> 2016 data: <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/color-of-justice-racial-and-ethnic-disparity-in-state-prisons/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2016/06/oregon\\_imprisons\\_african\\_ameri.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2016/06/oregon_imprisons_african_ameri.html)

The State now has a \$1.1 billion budget problem, and an even worse impending \$4.4 billion budget deficit in the next biennium.<sup>5</sup> We also face a drastic uptick in COVID cases, including an outbreak at Snake River Institute where 145 people have been infected.<sup>6</sup> Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, we have worked in coalition to ensure that a prison sentence is not a death sentence due to COVID exposure.

Before you today is a proposal to close Shutter Creek Correctional Institute this biennium and some discussion of closing Warner Creek next biennium. The closure of these facilities, without appropriate commutations, highlights concerns about crowding in already overcrowded prisons where exposure to COVID is high. However, the legislature does not have the agency to commute sentences, but it does have the ability to divest from the system of over incarceration. It should do so.

**Closing prisons are important steps forward to address the budget deficit and our overreliance on a system of incarceration that is not only ineffective but disproportionately discriminatory toward Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color.**

We respectfully urge the legislature to divest in mass incarceration and the Governor to follow suit by commuting the sentences of more adults in custody to safely transition out of prison. More commutations, such as the plan put forward by legislative leaders, many of whom are on this committee, would allow Oregon to:

- Achieve the social distancing necessary to ensure adults in custody, staff, and surrounding - mostly rural - communities are not put at further risk of COVID spread.
- Build off of Justice Reinvestment. By freeing up more taxpayer dollars, critical investments could go to local communities instead, for addiction treatment, victim services, and transitional housing for adults being released to stop the spread of COVID.
- Initiate a new phase of Justice Reinvestment that acknowledges that Black Lives Matter and targets investments in local, culturally specific programs to reduce racial disparities in our criminal justice system while also meeting JRI's historical objectives.
- Allow additional cost savings from long prison sentences to be reinvested into helping transition staff to other positions.

**The State's budget is a blueprint of the state's priorities. We urge your support for this proposal, which would reduce racial disparities in our public safety system, protect public health, and rebalance our budget.**

Respectfully,  
Partnership for Safety and Justice  
Unite Oregon  
Beyond these Walls  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/das/OEA/Pages/forecastecorev.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> Retrieved July 21, 2020. <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/covid19/Pages/covid19-tracking.aspx>

**Testimony Regarding Budget Rebalance Proposal  
Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety  
July 24, 2020**

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

Ann Turner submits this testimony in regard to the budget rebalance proposal.

I am a member of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (OPSR) and a retired physician. As a physician, I worked at a community health center, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, with an underserved, low income and vulnerable population, many of whom were immigrants and people of color. I learned firsthand how People of Color experience racism by police and our system of incarceration.

Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) suffer huge disparities in health outcomes, many of those related to their social determinants of health. These communities are also significantly overrepresented in jails and prisons. After the tragic killing of George Floyd, systemic racism and police brutality is finally front and center as an issue being addressed not only here in Oregon but widely in this country. Imprisonment is one of the results of racism such that we now have huge prison populations when compared with other countries. Prisons do not rehabilitate people and help them rejoin society as productive members of our communities. On the contrary, those who have been in prison find it very difficult to find employment and housing to allow them to reintegrate into society.

**With the COVID pandemic, the State now has a huge budget problem, \$1.1 billion for this biennium and \$4.4 billion for the next biennium. I support the proposal to close the Shutter Creek and Warner Creek State Prisons. Building, maintaining and operating prisons is expensive and does not promote the health and safety of Oregonians.**

Prisons are **not safe**; there have been significant outbreaks of COVID in two of the State prisons--331 cases among inmates and one death. Prison staff have also been diagnosed with COVID. One's prison sentence should not be a death sentence. Those imprisoned are often there because of drug and alcohol misuse and addiction. These are health conditions that need treatment rather than punishment. Treating addiction is a much better and more cost effective way to reduce crime and insure public safety than incarceration.

**Money used for these prisons should be used to improve the health and wellbeing of BIPOC and other vulnerable communities, working upstream to prevent poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and substance misuse.**

**Closing prisons is an excellent step in reducing the State's budget deficit, increasing safety in prisons (reducing the prison population to allow for social distancing and prevent COVID), and putting Oregon's values of anti-racism at the forefront of its policies.**

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ann Turner, MD

2007 NE Mason St.

Portland OR 97211

**Testimony Regarding Budget Rebalance Proposal**  
**Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety**  
**July 24, 2020**

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

Catherine Bax submits this testimony in regard to the budget rebalance proposal.

I am a life long Oregonian, now retired from working as a Physician Assistant. My 30-year career as a practitioner in Family Practice Medicine serving a low-income population made up of mostly People of Color has made me acutely aware of the barriers not only to health care but to education, employment and housing that negatively impact poor people, especially People of Color in our communities. These are also the people and families that are way over represented in our jails and prisons.

I submit that POC are poor **because** of the long history of racism. POC are imprisoned and entangled in the criminal justice system **because** of racism. POC are victims of centuries of systemic racist policies.

Thank God for the video cameras that have recorded the tragic, senseless deaths, often at the hands of police, of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Philando Castille, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubrey, George Floyd and the dozens of other POC. Of course, these are just the deaths we have been able to witness because they were filmed. Thank God for the cameras because just maybe the citizens of the US, of Oregon will demand that racist policies not only in policing and in our prisons, but in education, housing, health care be radically changed.

**In this testimony, I want to call attention to the proposals to close the Shutter Creek and Warner Creek State Prisons and to reinvest money and resources in the communities of color. Reinvest in the lives of the people who for years, for generations have not really benefited from a public safety/criminal justice system. In fact, they have been a victim of that system. The time is right to assert with your actions that Black Lives Matter in Oregon.**

Oregon has a \$1.1 billion budget deficit this biennium, and a probable \$4.4 billion budget deficit in the next biennium. COVID is raging in our country and in our state and the crowded, communal living conditions in prisons is the ideal environment for a wild fire spread of the disease among the prisoners as well as among the staff and their families and their communities. The prison population of older and or medically fragile people are especially vulnerable to serious infections and even death by COVID. The cost to the state of this inevitable COVID disaster in the Oregon prisons will add to the budget deficits, not to mention the human costs to the prisoners, the staff and the families and communities. **Closing prisons is an important step forward to address the budget deficit and our overreliance on a system of incarceration that is not only ineffective but disproportionately discriminatory toward POC.**

In light of COVID, the prison population also needs to be decreased. Incredibly Governor Brown continues to refuse to address this issue by commuting sentences of the many prisoners whose release would not be a threat to the community.

Sincerely,

Catherine Bax, Physician Assistant (retired)



**Testimony of Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, Director of Advocacy  
Regarding Prison Divestment, Commutation and Community Investment  
Joint Interim Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety  
July 24th, 2020**

Co-Chair Manning Jr., Co-Chair Sollman, and Members of the Committee:

Latino Network<sup>1</sup> appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on the Co-Chair 2020 Rebalance Plan - Agency Reduction Detail. More specifically, we urge the committee to not only see this as an opportunity to rebalance the state budget, but rather as an opportunity to close systems that have affected our communities for generations and invest in those that are facing extreme hardship during this pandemic.

**Latino Network has a decade-long history of providing services for the Latinx community members that navigate our criminal justice system.** Our team has achieved this by empowering our Latinx youth with the right tools in order to pursue positive life goals and to avoid incarceration. Our organization has taken this role due to the incarceration disparities our Black, Indigenous and Brown communities face. Oregon's prison population grew 5.5 times faster than our overall population. One out of every 21 Black Oregonians is held in prison, a rate that is 5.5 times greater than white people and places Oregon 7th in the nation for our incarceration rate of African Americans. The consideration of this committee to close Shutter Creek Correctional Institution is not only necessary - it is the type of change Oregonians are calling for today.

**The state of Oregon has a responsibility to rebuild the budget by centering those that are currently and have historically been affected by mass incarceration.** COVID-19 may not discriminate based on one's demographics, but it has exposed how many of our government systems do so on a daily basis. This pandemic has exacerbated the negative impact that correctional institutions have caused within our community. We face a drastic uptick in COVID cases, including an outbreak at Snake River Institute where 145 people have been infected. Someone's prison sentence faces the risk of becoming a death sentence due to COVID exposure.

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<sup>1</sup> Latino Network is a culturally-specific nonprofit serving Latinx youth and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Our organization provides transformative services to over 8,000 Latinx youth, families, and community members in multiple areas including education, family stability, and advocacy.

**Latino Network respectfully urges the legislature to divest in mass incarceration and the Governor to follow suit by commuting the sentences of more adults in custody to safely transition out of prison.** More commutations, such as the plan put forward by legislative leaders, many of whom are on this committee, would allow Oregon to:

- Achieve the social distancing necessary to ensure adults in custody, staff, and surrounding - mostly rural - communities are not put at further risk of COVID spread.
- Build off of Justice Reinvestment. By freeing up more taxpayer dollars, critical investments could go to local communities instead, for addiction treatment, victim services, and transitional housing for adults being released to stop the spread of COVID.
- Initiate a new phase of Justice Reinvestment (JRI) that acknowledges that Black Lives Matter and targets investments in local, culturally specific programs to reduce racial disparities in our criminal justice system while also meeting JRI's historical objectives.
- Allow additional cost savings from long prison sentences to be reinvested into helping transition staff to other positions.

Lastly, our partners at PAALF, Unite Oregon, Rose City Justice and many more have called for an investment in reimagining public safety. We ask this committee to work closely with leaders of the Black, Indigenous and Brown community to achieve true change in our system. We find ourselves in historic times. We must continue to be bold in this moment and not shy away from our responsibility to mend the wounds that centuries of systemic oppression have caused. Every decision made by this committee and legislature is a reflection of our society. Let's show the community that we are listening.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



**Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety**  
**Testimony submitted by Courtney Helstein on behalf of the ACLU of Oregon**  
**July 24, 2020**

Chairs Manning and Sollman, and Members of the Committee,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon<sup>1</sup> has long fought to reduce our reliance on incarceration and focus our precious state resources on programs that actually reduce crime and achieve better racial, gender, and economic justice for Oregonians. For these reasons, the **ACLU of Oregon supports the closure of two state prisons outlined in the budget rebalance proposal.**

Deep-seated systemic racism and inequities that disadvantaged Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) are still woven into the fabric of our institutions today— from education, housing, and health care to our criminal legal system. Our criminal justice system disproportionately targets and subjects the BIPOC community to police brutality and incarceration with life-ruining collateral consequences, and punishes people for being poor, a disproportionate number of whom are BIPOC.

The population in American prisons and jails has tripled in the past 15 years. It now tops two million. A culture of punishment, combined with race- and class-based animus, has led the United States to rely on incarceration more heavily than any other country in the world. **In Oregon, our prison population has grown from under four thousand inmates in 1980 to over fourteen thousand in 2020.**<sup>2</sup>

It is imperative to note that while closing these state prisons is necessary, Oregon must move more swiftly to reduce Oregon's prison population by safely transitioning people out of prison, especially those whose sentences are nearly complete, people who are medically vulnerable, and elderly people. Our state prisons are overcrowded, making social distancing during this global health pandemic impossible.

People in prisons and jails are highly vulnerable to outbreaks of contagious illnesses, as demonstrated by serious COVID-19 outbreaks within Oregon's prisons. Once a contagious illness enters, conditions in correctional facilities are highly conducive to it spreading. People in prisons and jails live in close proximity to each other. Many are housed in large dormitories, sharing the same space.

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<sup>1</sup> The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights. We have more than 30,000 members and supporters in the State of Oregon, and that number is growing as we speak.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/offender-population-trends.pdf>

Our public safety system is skilled and experienced at safely transitioning people out of prison, but we must take action now. **A more aggressive decompression strategy by the Governor, outlined in a plan created by many members of this committee<sup>3</sup>, would allow us to reduce the prison population, better manage the spread of COVID-19 in our prisons, and preserve precious state resources during the public health and economic crisis. It would also promote racial justice.**

During a global pandemic and national uprising against police brutality against Black people, we have an opportunity to rebalance our outsized correctional budget to protect investments in education and health care. We urge your support for these prison closures.





Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee  
900 Court St NE, Room H-178  
Salem OR 97301

Chair Manning, Chair Sollman, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as you work to rebalance the Oregon budget during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Justice Action Network, the nation's largest bipartisan criminal justice reform organization, shares your desire to prioritize efficacy and cost-savings in the state's criminal justice system. We write in full support of the proposed closing of Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and the Warner Creek Correctional Facility – this will save money in an economic downturn while maintaining public safety.

Over the past decade, state and federal prison populations have been shrinking, a trend mirrored in local jails. In 2009 there were over 1.6 million people incarcerated in prisons throughout the United States – by the end of 2018, that number had shrunk to just over 1.4 million.<sup>i</sup> In Oregon, there are currently 13,956 adults in custody<sup>ii</sup> (AIC) while there were 14,403 AICs reported in 2009.<sup>iii</sup>

State correctional expenditures, however, have trended in the opposite direction. Oregon has also grown its Department of Corrections budget over the past decade: in the 2009-2011 biennium it was \$1.4 billion; by the 2019-2021 biennium, the budget ballooned to \$1.9 billion even as the AIC population decreased by 3.2%.

Oregon prisons currently have superfluous capacity – in 2018, Oregon's state prisons were rated with an operational capacity of 15,612 beds.<sup>iv</sup> The closure of these two facilities, Shutter Creek with a capacity of 302 beds and Warner Creek with a capacity of 492, would bring the operational capacity down to 14,818 – well above the existing need of 13,956 AICs on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.<sup>v</sup> Safely closing these unneeded prisons will save money during the COVID-19 economic crisis, allowing rural and urban communities to avoid devastating cuts to public safety, health, education, and transportation infrastructure.

Concerns about the economic impact of prison closures are also unfounded. Research has shown that prisons are not the lifeline to rural communities as some would portray them. In 2003, the Sentencing Project released a study analyzing rural communities with and without prisons, and found that "[r]esidents of rural counties with one or more prisons did not gain significant employment advantages compared to rural counties without prisons."<sup>vi</sup> This study period also aligned with several severe economic downturns, showing that even during a recession, such as the one we are in now, counties with prisons did not fare any better than those without. The study also found that rural counties without prisons saw greater per capita income than those with prisons.

In 2010, researchers at Washington State University revisited the economic impact of prisons on communities.<sup>vii</sup> They too found little evidence to support the claim that prisons can support economic development in rural communities. They suggested that any possible economic benefit from prisons is offset by "existing corrections officers moving to fill openings, adverse local impacts of prison labor, and paucity of local multipliers when a prison opens." And as inmates are counted for the purpose of census in the area they are detained, not where they normally live, some economic benefits are shifted from their home communities to these rural



communities – disproportionately impacting communities of color and artificially inflating the economies of rural communities.<sup>viii</sup>

While closing a state facility is never taken lightly, we strongly believe that closing Shutter Creek Correctional Institution this biennium and Warner Creek Correctional Facility next biennium is the right move from both a budgetary and a public safety perspective. Closure will have a net positive economic impact on the Oregon budget and the state will be able to preserve other funding priorities that can better support the residents in Coos and Lake Counties.

To maintain these closures, we also urge you to consider legislation in upcoming sessions to continue your work of smart decarceration and avoid the use of prisons for individuals who do not serve a public safety threat. Instead, we strongly encourage the Oregon legislature to take up legislation that will keep non-violent offenders out of prisons and in communities where they can receive the support and supervision they need, while preserving prison bed space for those in need of correctional rehabilitation and treatment opportunities.

Lastly, as the COVID-19 pandemic will continue both within prisons and in communities, we encourage the legislature to push for further releases of non-violent offenders in order to allow for social distancing in prisons to reduce the chance of AICs, staff, and surrounding communities becoming sick with COVID-19.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions about the information presented in these studies.

Sincerely,

Carl Filler  
State Policy Analyst  
Justice Action Network

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p18\\_sum.pdf](https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p18_sum.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/inmate-profile.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p09.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p18.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/about/pages/prison-locations.aspx>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Big-Prisons-Small-Towns-Prison-Economics-in-Rural-America.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> Revisiting the Impact of Prison Building on Job Growth: Education, Incarceration, and County-Level Employment, 1976–2004. Social Sciences Quarterly, 2010.

<sup>viii</sup> <https://hannahwalker.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/walker-et-al-2016.pdf>

**Subject:** For Legislative Session: Proposal to Close Prisons in OR  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:48:53 AM

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Chairs Manning, Sollman and Members of the Committee;

I am writing today to express my concern for the number of prisons in the state of Oregon and for their disproportionate impact on black and communities of color. In this moment, our nation is facing several crises: systemic racism, police brutality, COVID-19 and looming economic instability. It is in this moment we that we can choose to end the destructive patterns that have led us to this point, specifically by ending the carceral processes that uphold the systems of racism, violence and punitive justice. With 14 prisons in the state and an incarceration rate of black people that places Oregon 7th highest in the nation, we need to turn a critical lens on ourselves and our future, particularly the future of black and POC communities.

As a taxpayer and proponent of non-carceral forms of community accountability such as restorative and transformative justice, I deeply oppose and resent my tax dollars funding cages that are disproportionately used to remove black and people of color from the community and which have devastating effects on the lives of those imprisoned and their families. Prisons are statistically ineffective in preventing crimes and often lead to higher rates of crime due to recidivism, especially among non-violent offenders. I urge you to begin bringing true justice to our state by closing our prisons and reallocating funding into essential social and community services which address the root causes of crime and support black, indigenous and communities of color and to initiate by closing the Shutter Creek Correctional Institute this biennium and Warner Creek in the following biennium. Please help Oregon stand on the right side of history and lead the way to a more just future for all.

Thank You.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Myers



July 23, 2020

**Testimony Regarding Budget Rebalance Proposal  
Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety  
July 24, 2020**

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lluvia Merello and I am writing today as a business owner and impacted community member to support the call to close Shutter Creek and Warner Creek Correctional facilities.

Oregon and the rest of the United states has the largest incarceration rate per capita in the WORLD. Today you have an opportunity to begin to reverse some of the wrongs that our incarceration system has sentenced our most vulnerable communities in Oregon.

My business Indigenous Come Up was created because of the lack of support to survivors of Government and Tribal Systems. The hard cold truth is that we over incarcerate and then we continue to punish convicts and their communities (poor communities with limited resources) post conviction in almost any way possible. I know first hand how prisoners guilty or not do not deserve to be forcefully relocated hundreds of miles from their loved ones or any support, while in state custody.

My husband was incarcerated in Texas for six years. In that entire time he received two visits, which were only made possible by me flying from Oregon to Texas to transport some of his family for a couple of visits in that time (this took precious time and resources from me as a single parent due to this incarceration). These are the sacrifices and choices that millions of us are forced to make because of all the wrongs in our incarceration systems. My husband was arrested in San Antonio but once sentenced and put into the state system was transferred from one border of Texas to the other at any moment's notice. This made planning a visit from out of state hundreds of miles away almost impossible, there was always a chance that after traveling all that distance that my husband would no longer be in that institution. While the traveling and resources were a sacrifice it was nothing compared to the experience of being in a state prison with almost no contact with loved ones for six years.

Indigenous Come Up  
[www.giftingartsandcarfts.com](http://www.giftingartsandcarfts.com)  
(503)442-5397

4414 NE Killingsworth #1, Portland Oregon 97218



Some of the barriers for families that I have experienced include having a dependable vehicle for transportation, money, valid driver's license, money, lodging, money, traveling to unfamiliar areas, lack of insurance, money and time away from work and other family, but I know that there are many more.

While my husband was incarcerated he earned his GED and had a graduation that NO ONE was able to attend. Some prisons do not give much notice for events like this, but even with notice because of the distance that many of us have to travel to see a loved one that is incarcerated, we still would not be able to attend a graduation or family/live event.

My experience was with the Texas State prison system but I know that thousands of families here in Oregon are going through the same situation. Disconnecting sentenced individuals from any support possible is an unnecessary harm to prisoners that we systemically force upon our poorest communities. No one deserves to work toward an educational goal for years (in some of the most challenging circumstances) and then to finally achieve that success; only to be left to hope and pray that by some miracle a friend or family member will be able to attend the graduation ceremony.

To this day everytime I think about that graduation day I feel pain and remorse.

Closing prisons are important steps forward to address the budget deficit and our overreliance on a system of incarceration that is not only ineffective but disproportionately discriminatory toward Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color.

If you have any questions of follow up needs please contact me.

Lluvia Merello

Business Owner/Indigenous Come Up

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Indigenous Come Up

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July 23, 2020

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## Testimony Regarding Budget Rebalance Proposal Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety July 24, 2020

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

Oregon PSR is an organization of health professionals and public health advocates working collaboratively with community partners to educate and advocate for societal and policy change that protects human health at the local, state, national, and international level.

Our country and our state are in a moment where the systemic and structural racism inherent in our criminal justice system is being widely recognized and called to account. While most attention has been focused on the system of policing, the carceral system is intrinsically interconnected and includes the systems of pre-trial detention, court adjudication, incarceration, and parole and probation.

**That is why we focus our testimony today on the closure of state prisons and the need for reinvestment in healing and restoration for people in communities of color who have systematically been denied true public safety.**

**Closing prisons are important steps forward to address the budget deficit and our overreliance on a system of incarceration that is not only ineffective but disproportionately discriminatory toward Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color.**

Not only do we respectfully ask that the Oregon budget reflects change that is needed but also that the Governor takes action to protect Oregon and Oregon State prisoners from the rapid spread of Covid-19 that include:

- Achieve the social distancing necessary to ensure adults in custody, staff, and surrounding - mostly rural - communities are not put at further risk of COVID spread.
- Build off of Justice Reinvestment. By freeing up more taxpayer dollars, critical investments could go to local communities instead, for addiction treatment, victim services, and transitional housing for adults being released to stop the spread of COVID.
- Initiate a new phase of Justice Reinvestment that acknowledges that Black Lives Matter and targets investments in local, culturally specific programs to reduce racial disparities in our criminal justice system while also meeting JRI's historical objectives.
- Allow additional cost savings from long prison sentences to be reinvested into helping transition staff to other positions.

**We urge your support for this proposal, which would reduce racial disparities in our public safety system, protect public health, and rebalance our budget.**

Respectfully,

Lluvia Merello, [Lluvia@Oregonpsr.org](mailto:Lluvia@Oregonpsr.org)

Energy Justice Organizer, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility



Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
*The U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize*  
1020 SW Taylor Street, Suite 275, Portland, OR 97205  
Tel: 503-274-2720 info@oregonpsr.org www.oregonpsr.org

**Subject:** Testimony for Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:00:12 PM

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Dear Joint Interim Subcommittee on Public Safety,  
We need fewer prisons and less incarceration, especially during a pandemic.

- 1) Prisons are punitive, traumatic, and harmful. They are not rehabilitative, restorative, or safe.
- 2) Investments in upstream measures to alleviate poverty and houselessness and improve education and healthcare has shown to reduce crime and therefore the need for jails and prisons.
- 3) Scientific research has demonstrated that indoor, confined spaces are the most likely places for transmission of COVID-19, making prisons known hot-spots for the disease.
- 4) Knowingly keeping people confined to spaces where they will get sick and where some will die is, effectively, cruel and unusual punishment and a violation of rights. (Not just for prisoners, but also inhumane for staff at prisons.)
- 5) Releasing prisoners is not only the humane thing to do, but financially prudent, and will have downstream community benefits.

Thank you,  
Serin

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**Serin Duplantis Bussell, MBA**  
Portland, 97209  
503-894-1597  
[www.linkedin.com/in/serinbussell](http://www.linkedin.com/in/serinbussell)  
*she/her*



July 24, 2020

Sen. James Manning  
900 Court Street NE S-205  
Salem Oregon 97301

Rep. Janeen Sollman  
900 Court St. NE, H-487  
Salem Oregon 97301

**RE: The Sentencing Project Supports Oregon Prison Closures and Prison Repurposing**

Dear Sen. Manning and Rep. Sollman:

The Sentencing Project, a national criminal justice research and advocacy organization applauds consideration of Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Institution. In recent years, Oregon and at least 21 other states have closed or announced closures for 94 state prisons and juvenile facilities, resulting in the elimination of over 48,000 state prison beds and an estimated cost savings of over \$345 million.<sup>1</sup>

By yearend 2018, the U.S. prison population reached 1.4 million people, declining by 9% since reaching its peak level in 2009. This follows a nearly 700% growth in the prison population between 1972 and 2009. This research brief reveals significant variation across states in decarceration and highlights the overall modest pace of reforms relative to the massive imprisonment buildup. Across the nation, declines in state prison populations and the shifting politics underlying incarceration have created an opportunity to downsize prison bed space for a range of reasons, including budget deficits, excess capacity, and the challenge of managing older facilities.

While a recent analysis, found that Oregon was not among the 44 states that reduced their prison population, lawmakers can close prisons and sustain closures through decarceration.<sup>2</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitates prison closure consideration given fiscal constraints. The crisis also exposes the public health risks given prison congregant settings and the chronic health conditions that many imprisoned residents live with. Research shows that people incarcerated in state prisons have substantially higher rates of asthma, HIV, high blood pressure / hypertension, diabetes / high blood sugar, heart-related problems, mental health issues, mental health issues, and more.

These developments surface opportunities for Oregon lawmakers to close state prisons, enact sentencing changes to sustain those closures, and prioritize reduced expenditures towards social policies that prevent crime and support communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Nicole D. Porter, "[Repurposing: New Beginnings for Closed Prisons](#)" (The Sentencing Project 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Nazgol Ghandnoosh, "[U.S. Prison Decline: Insufficient to Undo Mass Incarceration](#)" (The Sentencing Project 2020).



- **Building on Prison Closures** – Declines in state prison populations and the shifting politics underlying incarceration have created an opportunity to downsize prison bed space for a range of reasons, including excess capacity and the challenge of managing older facilities.
- **Enacting Sentencing Reform** - In recent years, several states adopted reforms that scaled back the scope and severity of their mandatory sentencing policies. Voters in California approved ballot initiatives in 2012 and 2016; the former curbed the state’s notoriously broad “three strikes and you’re out” law and the latter expanded parole eligibility and limits the process governing juveniles tried as adults. California and Oklahoma voters also authorized reclassifying certain felonies as misdemeanors. In other states, policymakers have become increasingly supportive of initiatives that reduce parole revocations, establish treatment courts, and divert prison bound defendants through alternatives to incarceration.
- **Investing in Community** - Prison closures offer an opportunity for state officials and community leaders to reimagine spending on public safety priorities. In recent decades public safety has been viewed as monies prioritized towards law enforcement, prison construction and maintenance, and other services supporting the criminal justice system. However, growing bipartisan support among elected officials at the federal and state level has contributed to a shifting climate for criminal justice policies and practices to support interventions outside of the criminal justice system. Effective interventions include early childhood education, in-home services for new mothers from high incarceration communities, and therapeutic services for at-risk youth.<sup>3</sup>

In recent years, criminal justice reform has regularly been raised at the state level. Officials working to rein in budgets have successfully explored incarceration alternatives to reduce state prison populations without compromising public safety. The circumstances surrounding prison closures vary from state to state and create challenges and opportunities. Prison population reductions have created an opening to close prisons; in some communities there have been intentional discussions about repurposing prisons for non-correctional uses. Practical examples of prison reuse projects have taken place in various jurisdictions including Illinois, New York, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas.<sup>4</sup>

For these reasons The Sentencing Project supports closure of two Oregon state prisons and encourages lawmakers to decarcerate through effective prison population reduction efforts and plan for repurposing of closed prisons. Please contact me at [nporter@sentencingproject.org](mailto:nporter@sentencingproject.org) for any questions about our position.

Sincerely,



Nicole D. Porter  
Director of Advocacy

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<sup>3</sup> Nicole D. Porter, “[Ending Mass Incarceration: Social Interventions that Work](#)” (The Sentencing Project, 2013).

<sup>4</sup> Porter, “[Repurposing: New Beginnings for Closed Prisons](#)”

**Subject:** Testimony in support of Partnership for Safety and Justice's proposal to close prisons to redress racial inequities, health concerns, and state budget deficit  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 11:12:14 AM

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To the Oregon State Legislature:

As a retired public health physician and researcher, I am writing in support of the proposal by the Partnership for Safety and Justice to close the Shutter Creek Correctional Institute this biennium and to discuss closing Warner Creek in the next bienenium. These steps would send an important signal that Oregon is willing and able to take concrete steps to address racial inequities in incarceration.

At this time of unexpected state budget deficits and serious health risks for inmates and staff in correctional facilities due to the coronavirus pandemic, closing some of these facilities offers a constructive solution to address these critical concerns. By commuting the sentences of non-violent offenders, Governor Brown will restore lives and give hope to the communities of Black and Indigenous/People of Color and show that our state is willing to right the unintentional wrongs wrought by previous state policies.

The unprecedented challenges of this era also bring unprecedented opportunities. Please take actions, as proposed by the Partnership for Safety and Justice, to help solve the budgetary and health problems the state is facing in ways that also begin to meaningfully address historic inequities for Oregon citizens of color.

Yours sincerely,  
Evelyn P. Whitlock, M.D., M.P.H.  
Portland, Oregon



**Testimony Regarding Budget Rebalance Proposal  
Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety  
July 24, 2020**

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

**Sponsors, Inc. submits this testimony in regard to the budget rebalance proposal.**

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the Executive Director at Sponsors, Inc., based in Eugene. I am also the Chair of Lane County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC); I serve on the Governor's Reentry Council and the Work Group on Reentry, Employment and Housing in addition to many other boards related to public safety.

Sponsors is a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services. We operate 20 buildings on seven sites in Lane County with over 240 units of housing for individuals with criminal histories and ancillary programs. In addition to housing, we offer a broad range of services—housing, employment, counseling, and mentoring—services people need to be successful when back in their community.

*Sponsors is submitting testimony today regarding the legislature's budget rebalance proposal. Specifically, we write in support of the proposed closure of Shutter Creek Correctional Institute and Warner Creek.*

Oregon is in the midst of an economic crisis (a \$1.1 billion budget hole for this biennium and a projected \$4.4 billion for 2021-23), caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which is forcing us to rebalance our state budget, rethink how we deliver essential services, and how we support our communities across the state. In the face of this substantial health emergency we are seeing large outbreaks of COVID-19 in Oregon's state prisons with large outbreaks at the Oregon State Penitentiary (177 positive cases) and Snake River Correctional Institute (145 positive cases.)

While Oregon is trying to manage the economic and health crisis, we have for decades been facing a crisis of over incarceration. Since 1980, Oregon has seen significant growth in our prison usage. There were three prisons in Oregon in 1980 and now there are 14. Disproportionally impacted by over incarceration in Oregon are our communities of color. One in five Black Oregonians are held in prison, a rate 5.5 times greater than that of White Oregonians. This over incarceration of Black Oregonians has profound negative effects on Black families and communities across the state.

We see the impact of that over incarceration in our work at Sponsors. Recognizing that we have been working in coalition over the last several years to advance state policies (i.e. Justice Reinvestment Initiative, Family Sentencing Alternative, and increased resources for specialty

courts and other diversion programs) that decrease our prison usage by focusing on community support and accountability. Savings from the decreased prison usage has been reinvested, by the Oregon legislature, into critical services such as education, healthcare, and housing. *However, these reforms have failed to address the racial disparities; Oregon ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for our incarceration of African Americans.*

Right now, you have an opportunity to divest from the system of over incarceration. The proposal to close Shutter Creek Correctional Institution now and Warner Creek by the end of the biennium will go far to address the budget deficit and our overreliance on a system of incarceration that is not only ineffective but disproportionately discriminatory toward people of color.

We recognize that closure of these two prisons, without additional releases for some adults in custody, could cause increased crowding in already overcrowded facilities thereby further increasing risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection. However, a plan put forward by legislative leaders outlines a strategy that the Governor can take to increase the number of people safely transitioning out of prison through increased commutations.

Right now, you have an opportunity to address both the economic crisis facing the state and the moral crisis of over incarceration that we have been trying to address for years. Through the closure of these two facilities we can save dollars that can be invested in critical services and divest from our system of over incarceration in a way that better serves Oregon communities through interventions that provide support and accountability.

I urge you to support this proposal to rebalance the state's budget, which would protect public health and safety in a meaningful way.

**TO:** Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety  
**FROM:** Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA)  
**DATE:** July 28, 2020  
**RE:** 2020 Rebalance Plan, Items #144-146 re: DOC – Close Shutter Creek

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Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) submits this testimony in support of closing Shutter Creek Correctional Institution (SCCI), items #144-146 in the JWM Co-Chair 2020 Rebalance Plan – Agency Reduction Detail under the Department of Corrections (DOC).

OCDLA has been the leading voice for public defense policy in Oregon for over 40 years representing 1,200 providers statewide. Our members work with youth in the juvenile justice system, parents whose children have been removed, children in foster care, and adults in the criminal justice system, appeals, civil commitments, and post-conviction relief proceedings. Our members include public defense providers who work in non-profit public defender offices and consortia, private bar attorneys, and investigators. We advocate at the state and local level to support adoption of public policies that support providers and their clients based on best practices for just outcomes.

You have other testimony before you that provides you with statistics of over incarceration and the disproportionate impact of over incarceration on Black Oregonians. You have heard testimony from DOC employees and people from Coos County about the devastating effect the SCCI closure will have on DOC employees' jobs, the community, and the labor provided to the community from the people housed in SCCI. OCDLA urges you to consider some of the following factors:

- Our system of mass incarceration and the mass criminalization of BIPOC lives, and how that affects their families and their communities.
- The burden on the families of people housed in SCCI who have to travel a long distance to visit their family member in SCCI (there is already a tremendous financial burden placed on families for being able to make and receive calls from their family members in DOC custody).
- The reliance on the free labor provided by people housed in DOC custody should not even be mentioned as a “benefit” to that community given the fact that Black Oregonians are held in DOC at a rate of 5.5 times greater than White people.
- DOC employees' lives are important but no more important than the people housed in DOC custody. We should not prop up the lives of one group of people on the backs of another group of people.
- Use the statewide and nationwide momentum to divest in mass incarceration and reinvest in communities of color. We should be build off Justice Reinvestment.

The narrative that closing SCCI will lead to an increase of the number of AICs in DOC should not be bought into. There have been several efforts urging the Governor to reduce the prison population, such as the plan put forward by some legislators, along with specific suggestions on how to do so. Those suggestions should be followed through with and we still hope that the Governor will take action to do so.

We urge this committee and the full Ways and Means committee to close SCCI, which is a step towards rebalancing the budget, divesting in over incarceration, reducing the racial disparities in our public safety system, and acknowledging that Black Lives Matter.

OCDLA recognizes the monumental task ahead of this committee now in rebalancing the state budget in the short-term and the challenges you face will only grow in 2021. We thank the Committee for your time, and we acknowledge the unenviable job ahead of you now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mae Lee Browning, J.D.  
Legislative Director, OCDLA

**Subject:** Budget cutting decisions on shuttering prisons  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:27:05 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

Today you consider a proposal to close Shutter Creek Correctional Institute this biennium and some discussion of closing Warner Creek next biennium. This is an opportunity, albeit driven by budget concerns, for the legislature to divest from the system of over incarceration. I strongly urge the legislature to take this action.

Closing prisons can both help address the budget deficit *and* our overreliance on a system of incarceration that is ineffective and is amazingly and disproportionately discriminatory toward Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color.

I respectfully urge the legislature to divest in mass incarceration and the Governor to follow suit by commuting the sentences of more adults in custody to safely transition out of prison. More commutations would enable Oregon to:

- Achieve the social distancing necessary to ensure adults in custody, staff, and surrounding - mostly rural - communities are not put at further risk of COVID spread.
- Stimulate over time Justice Reinvestment. Tax dollars could go to local communities instead, for addiction treatment, victim services, and transitional housing for adults being released to stop the spread of COVID.
- Initiate a new phase of Justice Reinvestment that acknowledges that Black Lives Matter and targets investments in local, culturally specific programs to reduce racial disparities in our criminal justice system while also meeting JRI's historical objectives.
- Allow additional cost savings from long prison sentences to be reinvested into helping transition staff to other positions.

The State's budget is a blueprint of the state's priorities. I urge your support for this proposal, which would reduce racial disparities in our public safety system, protect public health, and rebalance our budget.

Sincerely,  
David Chatfield  
3105 SE 51st Ave.  
Portland, OR 97206

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

We can have a more equitable system.

The racism inherent in our criminal justice system is finally being widely recognized: That for centuries, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people have been denied true public safety, which has led to the mass victimization and mass criminalization of people in these communities.

Now is the time for Oregon to advance equity and healing. Oregon must shrink our prison and corrections systems and reinvest in healing and restoration with a response to harm that centers the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

Oregon's sprawling and expensive network of 14 prisons stands in the way of aligning our state's budget with our state's values of equity and healing.

Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Dwyer  
245 15th st se  
Salem, OR 97301



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Marissa Thompson  
60 NE Shaver St.  
Portland, OR 97212

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Lorraine Heller  
9601 NW Leahy Rd #301  
Portland, OR 97229

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because healing is vital to a better and more healthy society, not slave labor in private prisons.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Cathy Nguyen  
2840 SE 112th Ave  
Portland, OR 97266

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Tara Horn  
5204 NE 19th Ave  
Portland, OR 97211

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

Prisons do no help society or the individuals in them. They release people more damaged than they went in and with no real offer of rehabilitation or reintegration. The system is designed to make a profit, not to keep our state safe. This guise of public safety is just that; these prisons are a tool to enforce white supremacy and perpetuate racism. Please close these prisons. The funds they run on would go much further when directly invested in the community i.e. rehab centers, CAHOOTS expansion, low income housing, etc.

My rapist went through Oregon's prison system and instead of sole relief, I was concerned for him (someone I didn't even know) because he was black and in our terrible system. I wanted him not to do what he did to me to others, I didn't want him to come out so messed up that he'll be a danger to women for the rest of his life. He needed anger management and therapy and he most certainly didn't get either in prison. Let's change how we deal with mental health and punishment. Thank you for your time.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Larissa Kiyak-Boughton  
512 Lincoln #2  
Eugene , OR 97401

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Anna Marti  
6821 SW TERWILLIGER BLVD  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

Stop Fascism Restart Democracy. End Qualified Immunity

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Dominic Lenzo  
14822 NE Rose Pkwy  
Portland, OR 97230

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

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Sincerely,

Sara Werboff  
2725 Magone Lane  
West Linn, OR 97068



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

everett mcgee  
9406 n charleston ave, unit b  
portland, OR 97203

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I have a master's in social work and public health and for far too long those fields have focused entirely too much attention on individual interventions to address health inequities. If we don't fundamentally change the environment and systems that determine how successful you will be and how long you will live just by being born into a particular family or region, then we will never be able to fully advance equity.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Kari Nilsen  
930 NW 25th PL apt 124  
Portland, OR 97210

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Melodie Toman  
832 NW 1st. Place  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

We can have a more equitable system.

The racism inherent in our criminal justice system is finally being widely recognized: That for centuries, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people have been denied true public safety, which has led to the mass victimization and mass criminalization of people in these communities.

Now is the time for Oregon to advance equity and healing. Oregon must shrink our prison and corrections systems and reinvest in healing and restoration with a response to harm that centers the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

Oregon's sprawling and expensive network of 14 prisons stands in the way of aligning our state's budget with our state's values of equity and healing.

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Sincerely,

Thomas Curtis  
PO Box 6558  
Bend, OR 97708

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

We know the justice system is terribly unjust. Inmates were given longer sentences than first world European countries, the US has 5% of the world's population and almost 25% of the world's prisoners. We know that mandatory minimums and no reduction for good time is cruel since people change, most people change. We need a system that rehabilitates prisoners and let them go when they are rehabilitated, not a system based in punishment and retribution. Perhaps hundreds if not thousands of Oregon prisoners are now rehabilitated but they still need to stay in prison for years because that is what a vindictive society wants them to do to feel safe. We know that 80% of women prisoners at Coffee Creek Correctional facility struggle or has struggled with mental illness, drug addiction and/or abuse and trauma, they are there in great part because society didn't take care of their problems. We know that defendants who gave money and can hire attorneys can defend themselves much better than those needed public defenders that perhaps will spend an average of 2 hours preparing their case. We know that you are not presumed innocent until proven guilty because less than 10% of cases end up in trials, for most cases unfortunately the public defender just tells the accused that if they plead innocent the judge won't believe them and they could get the maximum sentence so regardless if they are guilty or not the public defender has to explain that the most sensible thing would be to plead guilty and apologize so the judge and prosecutor see that they regret what they did and would be willing to give them a lesser sentence via a plea bargain or judge judgement. We know that once defendants are accused of something it is very difficult for them to convince a court that they are innocent. Because of this the making of the charges is so important. However the charges are decided between the prosecutor and a team that the prosecutor instructs and can influence. The process is not open to the accused or the defense attorney. The police report and presumptive victim stories are heard but the accused version of the story is not heard, that produces such an imbalance of rights that it is hard to believe how this process is even constitutional. They might think that once the defendant has been accused of something things will be sorted out later, but they don't. The accused story is not heard while deciding the charges and in most cases is never heard, the defense attorney will convince the accused to only share what is going to be helpful, not what is true according to their understanding of what happened. A defendant who met a hard on crime police officer, prosecutor, judge and had a public defender might spend years more in prison than if that defendant encountered a fair on crime police officer, prosecutor, judge and had a defense attorney who could spend an unlimited amount of hours in his/ her case. Given all we know and much more that I could explain it is hard to think of one thing that is fair and just in the criminal justice system. For these reasons I encourage you to close prisons and shift that money to where really matters, prevention and rehabilitation.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Maria Gonzalez  
197 Gregory Ln SE  
Salem, OR 97302

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sarah Devine  
2241 NW 12th St  
Corvallis, OR 97330

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Yonit Sharaby  
2030 SE 34th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97214



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Dana Coffman  
20102 Haley Creek Place  
Bend, OR 97702

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Jack Gray  
89664 Poodle Creek Road  
Noti, OR 97461

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Janis Evans  
12540 SE Linwood Ave  
MILWAUKIE, OR 97222-2973

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sable Tannahill  
5509 she 22nd ave  
Portland , OR 97202

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Ashley Wright  
1350 Charnelton St  
Eugene, OR 97401

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Gabriela Saldana  
6033 SE 80th Ave  
Portland , OR 97206

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

This is an issue close to my heart. Recidivism rates are high enough to show that incarceration is not a solution except for the most violent offenders.

In addition to not being effective, our 'justice' system unjustly incarcerates much high percentages of people with darker skin.

Be on the right side of history and start closing prisons while increasing opportunities for offenders to receive education and job training!!!

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Sincerely,

Susan Gregory  
18734 Choctaw Rd  
Bend, OR 97702-8962

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Alison Ellsworth  
1825 SE Nehalem St.  
Portland, OR 97202



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Theodore Urton  
10876 NE hemlock Place  
Dundee, OR 97115-9122

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Deyalo Bennette  
SW 63rd ave  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because I have a loved one who is a person of color who has been in and out of the prisons in Oregon, which has given me insight into what that experience is and does to people. Equity and healing are the only response that can create true safety in our community.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Janet Urton  
10876 NE Hemlock Place  
Dundee, OR 97115-9122

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Sincerely,

Karen Cain  
1008 Greenwood Drive NE  
Keizer, OR 97303-3939

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Jill Fuglister  
3725 SE Francis St  
Portland, OR 97202

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Stacey Triplett  
818 SW 3rd Ave., #224  
Portland, OR 97204

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Paul Riek  
409 NE San Rafael St, Apt 308  
Portland, OR 97212-3972

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Holly Pruett  
4355 SW 41st  
Portland , OR 97221



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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We can have a more equitable system.

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Now is the time for Oregon to advance equity and healing. Oregon must shrink our prison and corrections systems and reinvest in healing and restoration with a response to harm that centers the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

Oregon's sprawling and expensive network of 14 prisons stands in the way of aligning our state's budget with our state's values of equity and healing.

Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Joyce  
1724 SE 48 Ave  
Portland, OR 97215

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Nina Sobotka  
40 E 30th Ave  
Eugene, OR 97405

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Janet Nolley  
990 Judson St. SE  
Salem, OR 97302-2123

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Kenneth Nolley  
990 Judson St. SE  
Salem, OR 97302-2123

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because we as a society are better than this. We cannot continue to put fellow humans in cages. It is unjust and inhumane.

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Jenna Curtis  
11440 SW LOMITA AVE  
Tigard, OR 97223

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Craig Bazzi  
615 Lone Oaks Loop  
Silverton, OR 97381-1469

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Erica Rubin  
2344 NE19  
Portland , OR 97212

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

KAREN JAMES  
5088 SW NORMANDY PL Beaverton  
Beaverton, OR 97005



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Suzan Higdon  
2315 Charnelton St  
Eugene, OR 97405

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Lauren Burnett  
4942 SE 28th Ave  
Portland, OR 97202

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

gloria halper  
6214 N. Williams Ave.  
portland, OR 97217

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Deborah Burke  
1839 SW Market St.  
Portland, OR 97201

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Camden Beeghly  
933 NE 65th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

WL Roberts  
4075 AERIAL WAY  
EUGENE, OR 97402

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sharon Stern  
1205 NE Jarrett St  
Portland, OR 97211

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Elona Meyer  
3077 NW Lisa Place  
Corvallis, OR 97330



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Paola Amarante  
1092 Main Ave  
Clifton , NJ 07011

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

devin ruiz  
1600 N Colfax Ave #17  
Portland, OR 97217

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Camerina Galvan  
18323 SE River Rd  
Milwaukie, OR 97267

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Charlie d'Eve  
1436 SE Stark St Unit 105  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Maya Muñoz-Tobón  
38 SE 30th Place  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

monica brown  
5516 NE 24th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97211

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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The racism inherent in our criminal justice system is finally being widely recognized: That for centuries, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people have been denied true public safety, which has led to the mass victimization and mass criminalization of people in these communities.

Now is the time for Oregon to advance equity and healing. Oregon must shrink our prison and corrections systems and reinvest in healing and restoration with a response to harm that centers the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

Oregon's sprawling and expensive network of 14 prisons stands in the way of aligning our state's budget with our state's values of equity and healing.

Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Alicia Polacok  
4836 NE Everett St  
Portland, OR 97213

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Karen Keehn  
1330 nw 113th  
Portland , OR 97229



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

Prisons are not A sustainable solution for safety. It's a Racist band aid and An expensive one at that. Close these prisons.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Theresa Scott Merrion  
2846 n Killingsworth st  
Portland, OR 97217

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I've worked in community corrections since 1997 and seen the systemic racism within the current structure. I want to see more prisons close. More importantly I don't want this to drive over-crowded prisons, especially during this pandemic. I envision a dramatic overhaul of the entire criminal justice system. This includes law enforcement, DAs, jails, prisons, probation & parole.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Dave Riley  
3928 NE Failing St.  
Portland, OR 97212

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Gary & Mary Smith  
382 SE Boulevard Way  
Estacada, OR 97023

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Neil Stafford  
1950 Demaray Drive #16  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Michelle House  
9223 N Hodge Ave  
Portland, OR 97203

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Roey Thorpe  
1849 SE 36 Ave  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Paul Solomon  
2100 Tyler Street  
Eugene, OR 97405-2157

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Victor Reppeto  
615 Commercial st NE  
SALEM, OR 97301



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

M H  
342 NE Morgan St  
Portland, OR 97211

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

Now is the time for bold action. Closing prisons not only restores our communities from the harm caused by separation, but signals Oregon's leadership in reimagining our public safety systems and our commitment to the wellbeing to Black communities and families.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Matheson  
9136 N Seneca St  
Portland, OR 97203

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

Prisons are for the Dark Ages. Communities who want real healing and low crime will change current methods to address the SOURCES of criminality, not just pretend that isolating and punishing people is the answer (and then releasing them after years of making them even more antisocial). And today in a pandemic, we are condemning many to the Death Penalty! I hate being part of a society with so little integrity. I cannot understand why no one cares that our tax money is being used to make things worse! If we do have prisons, they should be funded based on their success rate of NON-RETURNING former prisoners.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Sandra Meyer  
7003 N. Wilbur Ave  
Portland, OR 97217-5254

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

MARYLOU SCHEIDT  
8130 SW 159TH PL  
BEAVERTON, OR 97007

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

michelle hicks  
6512 E Burnside st  
portland, OR 97215

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Nora Polk  
6405 SE 62nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97206

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Mary Martinez-Wenzl  
1925 SE 51st Ave  
Portland, OR 97215

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

John Nettleton  
4311 SE 37th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97202



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sarah Levy  
3222 SE 68th Ave  
Portland, OR 97206-1945

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Caroline Leaman  
1407 N Winchell St Unit B  
Portland, OR 97217

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Read  
328 7th Avenue  
Seaside, OR 97138-6107

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Claire Thexton  
5200 SE 84th Ave  
Portland, OR 97266-3113

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

We can have a more equitable system.

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Now is the time for Oregon to advance equity and healing. Oregon must shrink our prison and corrections systems and reinvest in healing and restoration with a response to harm that centers the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

Oregon's sprawling and expensive network of 14 prisons stands in the way of aligning our state's budget with our state's values of equity and healing.

Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

chelli bock  
49495 SW Hebo Rd.  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because our state can not thrive as a whole as long as our investment goes toward prisons instead of positive support of our low income and BIPOC communities. We can be better!

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Sincerely,

Tracy Burkholder  
1416 SE 49th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97215-2531

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Roberta Munger  
3830 SE 150th Ave  
Portland, OR 97236

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Chiquita Rollins  
5725 NE 17th Avenue  
Portland , OR 97211



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Joshua Wright  
306 N. Stafford St.  
Portland, OR 97217-1544

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sheri Constantin  
16231 SE 80th Ave  
Portland , OR 97267

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sonya Swanson  
1661 Maple St  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Jamie Brown  
4133 SE 32nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97202

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

John Castor  
6719 SW 26th Ave #A  
Portland, OR 97219-2177

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Emily Louwsma  
780 NE 72ND AVE  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

Warner Creek minimum security is the newest DOC facility. It's equipped with modern heating & cooling systems. Social distancing is possible at 50% or less capacity. The minimum in need of shutting down hands down is Santiam! Old and dilapidated with inmates crowded into poorly ventilated areas.

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Sincerely,

Mark Goodenow  
3265 Antelope RdSpC 20  
White City, OR 97503-1733

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Max Headley  
703 Ne 61st Ave  
Portland, OR 97213-4309



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I have been a volunteer in the Oregon State Penitentiary for over 10 years, teaching a mindful communication practice. I am appalled at the incarceration rate, the racial inequities, the criminalization of mental illness, and the absence of humanitarian values in prosecution and sentencing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Christina Taylor  
2255 NW 25th St  
Corvallis, OR 97330-1211

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

As a public health professional, it is crystal clear to me and others in my field the dangerous conditions in which prisoners are being held. Now is an opportunity to make an impactful change. Please help make Oregon a place we can all be proud to live. Close these prisons.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Stacie Balkaran  
735 SW ST CLAIR AVE # 709  
Portland, OR 97205

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Catherine Willett  
4755 NE Prescott Street  
Portland, OR 97218

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Quinn MacNichol  
5012 NE CLEVELAND AVE  
Portland, OR 97211

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Judith Lienhard  
4455 S W 94th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97225

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Kina Voelz  
9264 SW 8th Dr  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Kate Kerrigan  
13456 SW Hawks Beard St  
Tigard, OR 97223

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Alexis Lassus  
6235 NE 15th Ave  
Portland, OR 97211



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Zoe Kay  
5041 NE 11th Ave  
Portland, OR 97211-4557

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Jeana Frazzini  
4536 N Haight Ave.  
Portland , OR 97217

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

We can have a more equitable system.

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Now is the time for Oregon to advance equity and healing. Oregon must shrink our prison and corrections systems and reinvest in healing and restoration with a response to harm that centers the needs of victims and the most impacted communities.

Oregon's sprawling and expensive network of 14 prisons stands in the way of aligning our state's budget with our state's values of equity and healing.

Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

laura walsh  
1010 SE Linn St.  
Portland, OR 97202-7085

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because the United States is in need of justice reform and a punitive system does little to help those who have made mistakes change behavior. Closing these prisons presents an opportunity to re-evaluate spending to direct funds to restorative programs or other areas in need.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Shannon West  
1235 SE 26th Ave, Apt 12  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Maxwell Zapf-Geller  
2149 NE CLACKAMAS ST, Apt 1  
PORTLAND, OR 97232

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Melissa Slanetz  
6923 SE Harold St  
Portland , OR 97206

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Christian Marble  
1414 SE Taylor St, Apt 1  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because I've studied how much America's prison population has skyrocketed over the past few decades. This has been because of state laws and policies that placed more people behind bars and kept them there longer. Proven strategies are available that offer a better public safety return on taxpayer dollars, and I believe Oregon is up to the task of finding a better way.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Joseph Gavrilovich  
1414 SE Taylor Street, #1  
Portland, OR 97214



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I support this cause from a very young age. My father is a retired youth prison system worker and a story he told me at a young age has never left me. His supervisor on his first day, told him "if these guys leave in the same state as when they got here, you did a good job". That has never sat right with me. How can a state think it's done a good job rehabilitating someone if being the same is good? We desperately need to adjust budgeting away from prisons and into actual rehabilitation to end issues instead of locking them away and hoping for the best.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Victoria Lopez  
772 NE Autumncreek Way O110  
Hillsboro, OR 97006

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I have been going into the Oregon State Penitentiary weekly for over 10 years, volunteering my time to support growth and communication through a Nonviolent Communication process. So, this is a subject that is very dear to my heart. It is time to do some healing and restore equity to part of our justice system.

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Elaine Hultengren  
1570 Aerial Way SE  
Salem, OR 97302-1608

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because as an addiction medicine physician I have seen the individual patient and public health impacts that over-incarceration has had on patients in the short term (increased risk of overdose, exposure to infectious diseases, disruptions in needed clinical care especially related to addiction and substance use disorders) and long term (development of PTSD, worsening of chronic conditions, development of substance use disorders). It is beyond time we use reinvest funds used to imprison people to actually improve public health and our communities - better education, better access to employment and housing, better behavior/mental health treatment, etc.

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Sincerely,

Ximena Levander  
2803 SE 48th Ave  
Portland, OR 97206

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Shirley Charlton  
6240 SW Erickson Avenue  
Beaverton, OR 97008

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Carol Van Strum  
7493 E. Five Rivers  
Tidewater, OR 97390-9632

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Phyllis Hockley  
220 N Adams #2  
Eugene, OR 97402

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Iris Dowd  
2722 SW Rutland Terrace  
Portland, OR 97205

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Lauren Heagerty  
2635 N Willamette Blvd  
Portland, OR 97217



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rusch  
2757 NW Raleigh Street  
Portland, OR 97210

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Pooja Bhatt  
6841 SE 69th ave  
Portland, OR 97206-7339

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Jeff Kerr  
14079 SE Fair Oaks Way  
Milwaukie, OR 97267

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Karen Meurer  
264 SE Hood Avenue  
Gresham, OR 97080

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

As a teacher, I know how badly our valuable state-funded programs' budgets are hurting - this is an opportunity to do the right thing financially and morally. Just as we value children as teachable we need to value the potential that adults who are currently incarcerated hold by providing opportunities for healing and growth rather than punishment.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Sarah Allan  
3120 SE Pine St  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Tricia Hedin  
1180 W. 27th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97405-2235

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

I care about this issue because there are too many prisoners serving overly-long sentences in Oregon, and in addition to adversely affecting family members, many prisoners are incarcerated in rural facilities far from family members who are therefore unable to visit them. Oregon should more wisely spend its limited funds on (1) alternatives to incarceration and (2) services that prevent crimes from happening in the first place.

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Sincerely,

Sally Joughin  
2715 SE 34th Ave  
Portland, OR 97202-1438

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

---

Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

We can have a more equitable system.

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Willbach  
2521 SE 58th Ave  
Portland, OR 97206



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

As a long time prison volunteer I see firsthand how resources are wasted on destructive and inhumane human cages. We can and must do better. The time is NOW to disinvest from state sanctioned violence and invest in restoration and community centered pathways towards thriving, led by those most impacted.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Maria Scanelli  
1508 SE Hickory  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

As a former criminal defense attorney and someone who now teaches inside correctional facilities in Oregon, I care deeply about this issue. We need to stop our over-incarceration problem and focus more on education and community supports.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

These prisons are far from the communities where the majority of incarcerated people live, which makes it difficult - if not impossible -- for the parents and children left behind to visit their loved ones. And for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people who are incarcerated in rural prisons, there are fewer culturally reflective resources and staff available to them.

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Closing prisons is the right decision. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Deborah Arthur  
28500 SW MCGRAW AVE  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Scott Barrentine  
3345 NE 33rd Ave  
Portland, OR 97212

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Van DeWeese  
12645 43rd ave  
Milwaukie, OR 97222

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Dear Co-Chairs:

As an Oregonian, I urge your support for closing Oregon prisons and instead invest in a public safety response that promotes equity and healing.

This issue is important to me because the mass incarceration of black, brown and poor people in this state amounts to a new form of slavery and is destroying hope and opportunities for generations.

To rebalance the state budget in the face of the pandemic, I urge your support for closing two of our state's prisons (Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility).

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Sincerely,

Adam Lee  
1508 SE Hickory St  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

John Beischel  
2250 NW Kearney, Apt 418  
Portland, OR 97210

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Christina Ketcham  
41965 Wickiup Terrace Lane  
Astoria, OR 97103

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Sara Libby  
9424 N Van Houten Ave  
Portland, OR 97203



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Cleo Tung  
3215 NE 52nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97213

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Cleo Tung  
3215 NE 52nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97213-2431

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

E Taylor  
24655 NW Dixie Mountain Rd.  
North Plains, OR 97133

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Jenni Peskin  
1260 NE Dempsey Dr  
Bend, OR 97701

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Tom English  
74 W. 29th Ave,  
Eugene , OR 97405

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Donovan Mack  
2572 Elysium Ave  
Eugene, OR 97401

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Elsa Johnson  
1330 SW 3RD AVE, APT 605  
Portland, OR 97201

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Nadia Sindi  
1837 Kingsley Rd. #44  
Eugene, OR 97401



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Faye Creed  
2705 Elinor St  
Eugene, OR 97403

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Lizzie Martinez  
1537 SE 22nd Ave#3  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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Sincerely,

Amanda Kubisch  
1019 N Winchell St  
Portland, OR 97217