



**Testimony in support of HB 3064
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
March 13, 2019**

Chair Williamson, Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Naughton and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Abuse Advocates & Survivors in Service (OAASIS). OAASIS is a statewide organization that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. Our base is comprised of thousands of Oregonians—people who were sexually abused as children, survivors’ family members and loved ones, and community members who care about the safety, health, and well-being of survivors of child sexual abuse. We are working towards a future where all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma, and all relationships are based on respect, consent, and equity.

OAASIS is pleased to support HB 3064, the Accountability and Equity Act. OAASIS has proudly supported Justice Reinvestment in Oregon for years. Because of Justice Reinvestment and a 2017 update, Oregon has kept two state prisons closed while holding people appropriately accountable for harm, maintaining public safety, and expanding crime survivor services. Justice Reinvestment is a success. But like all good policies, Justice Reinvestment needs to be updated.

HB 3064 provides for more effective oversight and stewardship of how counties reduce prison use. For the last five years, all 36 Oregon counties have received Justice Reinvestment dollars to expand local services that safely redirect eligible people away from prison. While the vast majority of counties have been successful, some public safety actors in a handful of counties have shown a lack of commitment to the approach. For those counties that are perpetually ineffective at working toward this goal, HB 3064 would work with counties to correct course, or if need be, discontinue funds and redirect them to communities that are committed to the program’s intended outcomes.

HB 3064 will also allow Oregon to more effectively and equitably reach historically underserved communities, which experience additional barriers to success. Our criminal justice system must reduce disparities in historically underserved communities including communities of color, women, LGBTQ people, and rural and tribal communities. An Equity Advisory Committee will make recommendations on how the Justice Reinvestment program can be updated to make our state is fairer and more equitable.

Oregon made the right choice by passing Justice Reinvestment in 2013 and conscientiously implementing the program over the years. Let's keep Oregon on the right track by passing the Accountability and Equity Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you'll join me in supporting HB 3064.