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| March 12, 2019

To: House Judiciary Committee

We are writing in strong support of HB 3064. We have followed the progress made on Justice Reinvestment in Oregon from the beginning, and we attend the annual meetings of the counties for the annual updates that are given there. We also have been actively engaged in Marion County's JRI work for years, and thus we have the dual perspective of what is happening in the state as a whole and what is happening in Marion County.

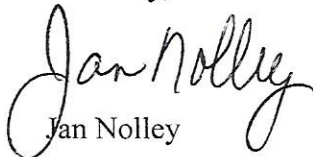
There are, of course, two main initiatives in HB 3064. One is the expansion of the Grant Review Committee. We believe that the provisions to add two representatives of underserved racial, ethnic or minority communities is important, all the more so as those communities are growing in the state. We also applaud the addition of a judicial perspective. Taken together, we believe that these additions will strengthen the grant process.

We also strongly support the expanded accountability that the bill seeks to create. The JRI initiative was intended first to flat line and perhaps eventually to reduce prison usage. Doing so frees up resources to strengthen communities by increasing victims' services, supporting reentry, and reducing recidivism. In many areas, these efforts have been successful, although the success has not been evenly distributed. Accountability will help to reveal areas that still need work, identify counties with effective strategies, and invest dollars more effectively going forward.

The Criminal Justice Commission has provided a wealth of data on the progress Oregon has made. We have found the CJC's Justice Reinvestment dashboard to be very useful. It provides information on what counties are the heaviest users of prison beds, on their recidivism rates, and on each county's progress over time. As residents of Marion County, we are pleased to see that our county has made major reductions in its use of prison beds and has reduced recidivism in the process. On the other hand, it also shows that since we started with such a high rate of incarceration, Marion County still has important work to do.

So we know that the information needed to inform accountability is now readily available. HB 3064 will provide the mechanism by which that information may be used to guide the JRI process going forward.

Sincerely,


Jan Nolley


Ken Nolley