



# Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

March 14, 2019

House Judiciary Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

Please find this testimony in support of HB 3064, the Accountability and Equity Act being heard today.

As you know and should be proud of ..... Justice Reinvestment - passed in the 2013 legislative session - has reduced our state’s reliance on prisons while investing in local communities. Thanks to this program and a 2017 update, the state has kept two state prisons closed while holding people appropriately accountable for harm, maintaining public safety, expanding crime survivor services, and is projected to save the state nearly \$325 million in prison construction and maintenance costs in the first 10 years. Justice Reinvestment passed in 2013 with bipartisan support with the goals of reducing recidivism, decreasing prison use, protecting the public, and holding people accountable for crime. It’s working.

In the 2013 legislative session SEIU members from the Oregon Youth Authority testified in support of Justice Reinvestment and in April of 2017 our members testified in support of HB 3078 the Safety and Savings Act - a bill that was a forward-thinking piece of legislation that modified eligibility for the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program. We are glad its passage was found to be constitutionally sound by the Oregon Supreme Court earlier this year.

We write today about our support for HB 3064. Most importantly to us - it will allow Oregon to more effectively and equitably reach historically underserved communities. Our criminal justice system must reduce disparities in historically underserved communities including communities of color, women, LGBTQ people, and rural and tribal communities. And we are full on supportive of the Equity Advisory Committee to the Criminal Justice Commission that will make recommendations on how the Justice Reinvestment program can be updated to make our state fairer and more equitable.

As you know SEIU Local 415 represents some 750 or so employees who work at Oregon Youth Authority facilities throughout the state as a critical part of the Juvenile Justice System. We believe in our mission to make our communities safe and Oregon’s youth crime free and productive. OYA protects the public by holding youth accountable and providing a safe environment for evidence-based treatment services, education, and reformation.

We are glad to see and be helping Oregon move forward on smart reforms and justice reinvestments. Thank you.

Len Norwitz, Political Staff  
SEIU 503  
[NorwitzL@seiu503.org](mailto:NorwitzL@seiu503.org)  
503-772-5801

<b>Salem Headquarters</b>	<b>Bend</b>	<b>Portland</b>	<b>Corvallis</b>	<b>Medford</b>	<b>Eugene</b>	<b>Pendleton</b>
1730 Commercial St. SE PO Box 12159 Salem, OR 97309-0159 503-581-1505 800-452-2146 (Fax) 503-581-1664	925 SE Second St. Suite C Bend, OR 97702-1756 541-385-8471 800-832-0593 (Fax) 541-388-9078	6401 SE Foster Road Portland, OR 97206-4659 503-408-4090 800-527-9374 (Fax) 503-408-4099	<b>Physical Site/Do Not Mail</b> 606 SW 15th St. Rm. 109 Corvallis, OR 97331-4606 541-752-0183 (Fax) 541-752-0241	1257 N Riverside #7 Medford, OR 97501 541-779-4324 800-452-7965 (Fax) 541-779-4325	488 E 11th Ave. Suite 100-B Eugene, OR 97401-3601 541-342-1055 800-521-3446 (Fax) 541-342-2932	200 SE Hailey Ave. Suite 302 Pendleton, OR 97801-3069 541-276-4983 800-452-8146 (Fax) 541-276-4984