

March 25, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human services  
Oregon 2019 Legislative Session

**Subject: SB 5525**

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Subcommittee,

The LPSCC (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council) in each County manages the current Justice Reinvestment Grant. They also advise County Courts and Boards of Commissioners on Public Safety Issues. Some Counties have LPSCC Staff, or Coordinators. County and Regional Coordinators are able to address trends in Public Safety issues throughout the Counties they serve.

Behavioral Health resources are lacking in the Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon Region. Through Sequential Intercept Mapping, and other local exercises and discussions, the lack of resources for this population has been stressed over and over. It presents a public safety issue when those with untreated behavioral health disorders come into contact with members of the public. Law Enforcement is faced with limited choices in dealing with these issues, and has to balance the wishes of the public with the special needs of a person exhibiting symptoms of a behavioral health disorder. Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment would provide a necessary supplement to the Justice Reinvestment Grant, by providing resources for this specific population.

Each County is in need of behavioral health resources, but each County has slightly different issues and populations. By bringing together Elected Officials, Agency Directors and other stakeholders involved in Public Safety, the LPSCC's are in the best position to troubleshoot gaps in services to Justice-involved individuals, and forge community based partnerships to address the gaps.

Signed,

Jessica Rose, LPSCC Coordinator, Counties of Wasco, Morrow, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler

Melissa Lindsay, Morrow County Commissioner, Morrow County LPSCC Chair

Richard Stokoe, Chief of Police, Boardman, Oregon

Lane Magill, Wasco County Sheriff

Kenneth Matlack, Morrow County Sheriff

Tom McCoy, Sherman County Commissioner

Brad Lohrey, Sherman County Sheriff

Elizabeth Farrar, Gilliam County Court Judge