



JAY BOZIEVICH

Lane County Commissioner
West Lane District
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DATE: March 28, 2019

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Sub-Committee on Public Safety

RE: SB 5504, relating to the financial administration of the Department of Corrections

Co-Chairs Senator Winters and Representative Piluso and Members of the Sub-Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 5504 and for your continued work on the Department of Corrections Budget. This is highly important work and we believe the Department has been an excellent steward of public resources.

Lane County pays close attention to the Department of Corrections Budget and it the Community Corrections Act funding is routinely one of the items we designate as a legislative priority. We urge the sub-committee to reject the Governor's Proposed Budget for Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding and to re-consider the Agency Request Budget, particularly the POP #125 which sought to include the once- each- six-years cost study. We seek your support of baseline funding for CCA at \$319M.

Lane County sees itself in partnership with both the Department of Corrections and other state agencies when it comes to the provision of public safety services. As much as 65% of our County General Fund is used to support public safety services and it was these services that were most impacted when we lost a significant stream of general fund due to the decline of federal forest harvest.

That dynamic exacerbated a characteristic of Community Corrections Act funding. That is, each county receives a relative share of the pie based on how many individuals are under community supervision. Slight changes in a counties relative percentage can mean large changes in dollar amounts. In 2013, Lane County voters approved (and re-approved in 2017) a local levy which provided operational funding for our jail. This vote, plus the passage of HB 3194 (Justice Reinvestment Act) also in 2013 combined with CCA funding and enabled us to reverse what was truly a public safety crisis.

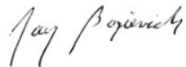
As each of these funding streams went into effect, the result was that we prosecuted more crimes, held in our jail more arrestees and convicted individuals, bolstered our Parole and Probation Division, and became far more functional when it comes to collaboration via our local public safety coordinating council. With these resources, we were able to implement programs that worked with respect to Justice Reinvestment. We are proud of the role we've played in reducing state prison usage and seek to continue in that collaboration.

The Governor's Proposed Budget threatens those successes. Shrinking the Community Corrections Act funding, whether through an actual cut or by not including the cost study

results, creates two significant risks. The first is that each year the members of our LPSCC always balance the risk of investing in enhanced supervision and community treatment against the unquestionable security of jail and prison infrastructure. That calculus is always based on expected resources. Without enough resource, we can eschew the JRI avenue and the end result of that is additional pressure on the Legislature to construct new prison infrastructure. The second is that that County Governing Body could opt-out of Community Corrections and return that service to the state. That too is a far more costly outcome.

We urge the Committee to continue its work, as have previous Ways and Means Committees, to find the necessary funding to keep counties at the table and continue the collaboration that has characterized the success of both CCA and JRI funding streams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay Bozievich".

Jay Bozievich
Lane County Commissioner, West Lane District