



To: Members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Sheriff Jason Myers, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: March 28, 2019

Re: SB 5504 – Testimony in Support of DOC Budget

Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso and members of the Public Safety Ways and Means Committee.

For the record, my name is Jason Myers and I am the Marion County Sheriff. I'm here today testifying in support of House Bill 5504 (specifically Community Corrections Baseline Funding) on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police.

Community Corrections is a vital component to each and every public safety system around our state. With the passage of HB 3194 (Justice Reinvestment 2013) leaders from our local public safety systems together with our Community Corrections organizations have taken on the responsibility of supervising a population of offenders in the community who typically were sent to prison. While this arrangement has worked well in terms of lowering our state's prison population it has resulted in our Community Correction's agencies supervising a higher risk offender population in our local communities. Supervising this higher risk population coupled with the passage of SB 267 (passed by the legislature in 2003 and requires Community Corrections agencies to adhere to Evidence Based Practices) has increased the actual cost of Community Corrections which is reflected in the 2018 Actual Cost Study that you were briefed on by the Department of Corrections.

With this in mind, I'm here today on behalf of your Oregon Sheriffs and Chiefs who ask you to fully fund Community Corrections at the Actual Cost Study funding of \$319 million dollars. Baseline Community Corrections funding is the foundation of the supervision, sanctions and services of the reformatory work that is done in each of our local Communities. This work is one of the corner stones of public safety. The Governor's Recommended Budget has set Community Corrections Baseline funding at Current Service Level and not at the Actual Cost Study amount. Current Service Level is currently less than the baseline that was received in the last biennium and at this level most Community Corrections agencies in our state will have to make reductions in supervision, sanction and services they provide while still having the responsibility of supervising a high risk population without the adequate resources.

I think it is important to point out that the positive outcomes Justice Re-investment has produced (lowering prison use and delaying prisons from being built) is a direct result of the important foundational work that is done through Community Corrections Baseline Funding. I've used the analogy of Justice Re-investment of being the second floor of a building and Community Corrections Baseline being the foundation. In order to have a second floor that stands the test of time we must have a solid foundation. Fully funded Community Corrections baseline at the Actual Cost Study Amount will provide this strong foundation and continue to support the work and positive outcomes Justice Re-investment has provided to our state and local communities.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee might have.