

To the Joint Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Public Safety

Co-Chairs Sen. Jackie Winters and Rep. Carla Piluso, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Jubber. I am 36 and I live in Eugene. I work as a Family Navigator for the Family Relief Nursery, helping people connect with social services. For 18 months prior to that I worked in peer support for the Lane County Drug Court. I am also a drug court graduate and alumni board member.

Before treatment court, I was a homeless drug addict with nearly a dozen felony and misdemeanor arrests, starting when I was 18.

Even after a 2005 arrest for DUI and assault, I kept partying with a mix of meth and coke and still didn't think I had a drug problem. Then I lost my job and things started to spiral out of control. I ended up on the street, got involved in crime to survive, and was in and out of jail every few months.

I turned down drug court the first time it was offered. When I did get into the program later, I didn't show up. But they gave me a second chance. I came back and stuck with it. I kept showing up and I got into residential treatment. With drug court, the whole damned thing was challenging. I had to trust that these people had my best interests in mind. **I had never seen the judicial system look like this, seen it act in that compassionate way. My thought had always been, if I'm a criminal, they – police and DAs and judges – are the bad guys.**

My biggest lesson from drug court was, I'm worth it. I'm worth getting sober. I was allowed to learn what my value was. Today, I'm on the drug court alumni board of directors. I get to be a part of somebody else's story at the same time I'm writing my own story. It gives me a sense of purpose and belonging and community – community is huge. I get to be a part of that. Not many people get that opportunity. It's almost an honor – that's the very thing that keeps me in recovery.

The Value of Treatment Court – Keeping people out of jails is a good thing. Is it morally good? You could debate that for centuries. But keeping people out of jail, avoiding the revolving door, the inmate costs, compared to the costs of drug court – it doesn't make sense not to have drug court. **There's no dollar amount or moral argument from my parent's point of view that they got their kid back, or for a child that gets their parent back. It's not measurable.**

Being a drug addicted inmate is not a good way to live, not a quality of life anybody should have to have. If there's an option to cut off that cycle or stop it from happening with treatment, why wouldn't you look at treatment court – look at different paradigms, because the old ones aren't working. **That's why you should support Oregon's treatment courts.**

Thank you.

Robert Jubber

April 4, 2019