



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Department of Corrections

Office of the Director  
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June 12, 2019

The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker  
Members of the House of Representatives  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: SB 1002B

Dear Speaker Kotek and Members of the House of Representatives:

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Corrections, this letter is being sent to emphasize the importance of passing SB 1002B.

SB 1002B prohibits prosecuting attorneys from conditioning a plea offer on a defendant's waiver of eligibility for transitional leave, reduction in the term of sentence, leave or release from custody, or any other program for which eligibility is determined by court or supervising agency.


For a corrections system to change behavior and provide safe and secure custody and supervision, we must be able to utilize a wide range of incentives and deterrents. Programs such as transitional leave (early release from prison when an individual has complied with all programming) and sentence reductions are great motivators for compliance, as well as cost savers proven to be effective in our justice reinvestment initiative.

Transitional leave has not only been a motivating program for good behavior, it has proven to reduce recidivism. Two studies conducted by the Criminal Justice Commission have shown the population receiving this program have lower recidivism rates than those ineligible to participate. Furthermore, this program has saved the state more than 1,200 years of prison time since the expansion of the program under HB 3194 (2013).

All DOC programs have safeguards, or checks and balances, to ensure only individuals who have met the strict criteria of compliance receive the benefit of the programs. Given this, there is little need to limit these incentives on the front end before a person has been given the opportunity to benefit from them during their term of incarceration.



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From the Desk of  
Representative  
Carla C. Piluso

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For the reasons explained above, the department urges your support of SB 1002B.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or wish to further discuss the DOC programs impacted by this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colette S. Peters". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Colette S. Peters  
Director