



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Tawna Sanchez, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 4131

Madam Chair and members of the committee, I am Nathaline Frener, Assistant Director of the Correctional Services Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to provide information related to HB 4131 and answer any questions.

What the Bill Does:

This bill directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, in collaboration with Department of Corrections (DOC), to establish the Family Preservation Project at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

Background Information:

DOC is a strong supporter of connecting incarcerated parents with their children and has proactively increased the number and quality of those connections in the last 10 years. The Family Preservation Project has been an important partner in those connections, specifically providing services to incarcerated mothers and their families at Coffee Creek's minimum-security facility. The department shares the Family Preservation Project's goals outlined in the bill to increase protective factors and reduce the trauma experienced by children of incarcerated parents and increase successful re-entry from prison to healthy families.

If this legislation passes, we would like to clarify the expectations of DOC as detailed in sections (5) and (7) of this bill. It is our understanding from communications with the YWCA of Greater Portland all space requirements identified in this bill for the FPP Program will match the space Coffee Creek currently provides for FPP services. This includes current use of office, classroom, and twice monthly visiting spaces in the minimum-security prison.

We have clarified that, given the legislation's method to fund FPP through the Criminal Justice Commission, the YWCA of Greater Portland will not have a contract with DOC but will be considered a Partner Agency Contractor as defined in DOC Policies on Non-Employee Service Providers. Section (5)(a) of the bill indicates they will be provided contractor training, identification, keys, and access to information technology and support. If this bill passes, we will provide these resources in accordance with our policies and standards and those of the federal Criminal Justice Information Systems standards which have evolved since we first began partnering with FPP in 2010.

Should this bill pass, all details can be further defined in a memorandum of understanding between the DOC and YWCA of Greater Portland and, as needed, in the Criminal Justice Commission's grant agreement.

We appreciate and recognize the passion for FPP and are pleased to see this support for incarcerated parents and their children. As mentioned in my opening, the goals of this program are shared by DOC, and we will be proactive partners in this effort. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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