

**Lori Stegmann**  
**Multnomah County Commissioner**  
Representing East County, District 4



2/7/2020

House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Bynum and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 4131- the expansion of the Family Preservation Project pilot at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

This bill will take the necessary steps to increase Oregon's efforts to address the impacts of individual, systemic, and institutional trauma and violence that disproportionately affect women of color, LGBTQ+ identifying individuals, people with mental health diagnoses and people with diverse abilities.

Women incarcerated at Coffee Creek report extremely high levels of past domestic and sexual violence. This program provides critical resources for healing from such trauma and increases economic and housing stability upon reentry. It also mitigates the impacts on children and families when they are reunited post-incarceration.

I have personally met with women incarcerated at the Coffee Creek facility. One of my most memorable visits was addressing their GED graduation class and hearing about the positive steps they had taken to move their lives forward. Their desire to be united with their families and receive additional education and employment skill development was palpable. I was so moved by their hard work and commitment to chart a new path for themselves and their families.

Not only will this bill have a positive effect on inmates at Coffee Creek, but we all know how crucial it is for children to be able to maintain their relationship with an incarcerated parent which can result in the emotional and behavioral health outcomes that every child needs and deserves. The continuation of this program is paramount to strengthen families who are already struggling in our community and will help them to be independent, stable, and successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Stegmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County District 4