



Date: 3/23/2021

RE: Letter of Support for HB 3035

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 12 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually and operates social services for the community justice programs in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. **Our programs and properties span Senate Districts 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25; and House Districts 33, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 50**

We want to thank Rep. Dexter for introducing this legislation. We have also submitted a similar letter of support for Rep. Wilde's proposed legislation HB2199. Continuity of care is incredibly important, but is often severed by mis-alignment or conflicting policy priorities. CCC provides transitional housing programs for both reentry and diversion from the criminal legal system. These programs continually work to bridge gaps between housing, health care, economic opportunity and other social services to improve individual outcomes and reduce re-incarceration.

We have heard from our clients who have engagement with criminal and legal systems, that disruption in their continuity of care, changes in their treatment plan and/or a lack of warm hand-offs exacerbates their illness and perpetuates instability.

HB 3035 does a great job of setting up the kind of expectations and guidance on how to improve continuity of care. The [Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment](#) project in 2019 evaluated the health needs in our system of incarceration, what we all learned through that project was just how much we are incarcerating people who are sick. If we do not adequately connect people to health care both while incarcerated and when people are coming home. When we fail to make these connections, it is our own systems that then perpetuate homelessness, illness and over-incarceration.