

Health Department

Date April 1, 2021

TO: The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

SUBJECT: HB 3229: Relating to health care for adults in custody in local correctional facilities

Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee: My name is Ebony Clarke and I am the Interim Director of Multnomah County Health Department. My department runs the largest local corrections health operations in the state. The issue of health care for adults in custody in local correctional facilities is of high importance to Multnomah County. I write to express our organization's support for the dash 1 Amendment to HB 3229, which will establish a much needed advisory council to oversee healthcare needs for those in custody.

The proposed council would develop recommendations for minimum standards, policies, and procedures for the provision of healthcare services to adults in custody. **Because the standards developed by the council will be broad with far-reaching consequences, we believe that the member who provides health care services to adults in custody at a local correctional facility should ideally serve in an administrative or leadership capacity as well. This may be accomplished through the addition of a Medical Director for Local Correctional Facility, or equivalent role.**

Given that Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, providing high quality, compassionate care to this population is one way that Multnomah County Health Department leads with race. We look forward to the opportunity to bring our expertise and experience to support statewide efforts to better serve the healthcare needs of those in custody.

Thank you for your support of HB 3229 and for considering our suggestions. I am available as a resource should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ebony Clarke, LCSW, MSW
Interim Health Department Director
Multnomah County Health Department

Testimony: HB 3229