



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

April 30, 2020

RE: HB 2002

Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Holvey & Members of the Committee:

Washington County aims to be a strong and collaborative partner with the State in the pursuit of advancing justice. Supporting a robust justice system allows our richly diverse community to be served meaningfully, professionally and equitably. However, imposing economic barriers that disproportionately impact counties, such as Washington County, undermines the ability to provide swift and appropriate response. If passed as drafted, House Bill 2002 drastically reduces Supervision Fees that counties may collect, and also reduces the Justice Reinvestment funding that flows to Counties.

Supervision Fees

The current bill proposes eliminating the collection of supervision fees and acknowledges the funding gap this will present many counties. These fees pay for staffing and services for justice-involved individuals. Recognizing that many counties do not have general fund dollars to backfill this gap, the proposed (-4) amendments propose allocating \$6 million to fill this gap. However, eliminating fees is estimated to result in a \$12 million overall gap per year and requests the amount to be increased to reflect the total amount. This \$6 million gap must be accounted for and the cost should not be passed on to Counties.

Justice Reinvestment

We have a number of concerns related to what is still in the current legislation related to Justice Reinvestment funds allocation:

1. We would advocate for the CJC to retain the authority to approve local recommendations, and potentially bring in consultants on the grant review committee who have expertise in culturally specific programming to help determine grant approvals.
2. We are concerned about allocating a predetermined 20% of JRI to an independent entity (NW Health Foundation Fund II) for determining local culturally specific programming because it reduces the autonomy of local jurisdictions and restricts their overall funding available for locally prioritized services.

As one of the most diverse counties in the state of Oregon, we hope to partner with the state and community members to ensure a more just future for all Oregonians. We greatly appreciate your attention to this pressing matter and urge you to reconsider these amendments.

Respectfully,

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