



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Barbara Smith Warner, Chair
House Committee on Rules

Re: House Bill 2002

Chair Smith Warner and members of the committee, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). This written testimony is provided to share information regarding HB 2002 and the potentially negative impacts of the sections related to community corrections.

DOC was a participant in each of the workgroup meetings related to the sections of the bill that impact Parole and Probation Officers and their duties. DOC has continued beyond the workgroups to meet with Legislators and the proponents of the bill to find workable solutions to the goals those in support of this bill hope to achieve. While the draft dash-four amendments have made significant and promising changes, many of the sections remain vague and challenging to interpret. In addition, we would caution that much of the proposed language is in contradiction to proven public safety approaches.

DOC is committed to continued work with the proponents of this bill to find meaningful, evidence-based improvements for community corrections. However, we are concerned that making quick, compromised changes on issues that impact the health, safety, and success of those on supervision and the public will not result in well thought out policies and will require additional revisions in the years to come. To that end, we would prefer to work in a more thoughtful and collaborative approach, outside of this current Legislative Session, and return with solid criminal justice reforms that are beneficial to the state of Oregon.

Requested Action:

The department respectfully requests the sections pertaining to parole and probation be removed from this bill. DOC and other stakeholders are ready and willing to work on these important issues and return to the Legislature at a future time with recommendations for reform.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections
Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director for Community Corrections
Jeremiah.P.Stromberg@doc.state.or.us
Phone: (503) 945-8876