



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: May 1, 2021
TO: House Committee on Rules
RE: HB 2002, relating to public safety

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

Thank you for holding a public hearing on HB 2002 and the -4 amendment proposed for this measure. Lane County has tracked this measure since its introduction. We provide a plethora of behavioral health, criminal justice, and parole and probation services and are actively engaged in implementing equity standards for all of our decision making and service delivery.

We are unable to support the -4 amendment to this measure and request that the Committee take no further action on the base bill this session. We don't argue that criminal justice reform, particularly where there are disproportionate outcomes for any cultural grouping within Oregon, should be pro-actively addressed. What we do object to is that the changes proposed by the -4 amendment with respect to the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) will bifurcate a system that has not been demonstrated to be broken and it makes other unfunded changes to existing law.

HB 3194 implemented Justice Reinvestment in 2013 and the Criminal Justice Commission has administered the program, along with a suite of Administrative Rules since that time. The emphasis has always been about reducing recidivism by supporting programming that is evidence-based, regularly reviewed for efficacy, and that is evolved by each community through an inclusive and transparent process. The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC), a long established statutory construct present within each county in Oregon, was reinvigorated by the passage HB 3194, and serves as the hub to address discussions that are centered on serving the needs of the community and the systems which support public safety and justice writ large.

Lane County finds HB 2002 and the -4 amendment highly problematic in the following sections:

- Section 11 will impose significant costs to local law enforcement agencies and will require new investment for facilities which may not exist in every community across Oregon.
- Section 15 and 18 remove a key sanctions with respect to the use of drugs and alcohol that we believe would leave our communities less safe.
- Section 19 repeals a statewide statute that each individual county may already address locally for reasons of financial hardship or is "otherwise advisable in the interest of the released person's rehabilitation."
- Section 25 reduces the emphasis on recidivism reduction funding by 25 percent of the JRI grant funding, and develops a new grant program that fully avoids the existing roles of each LPSCC, while separating the Criminal Justice Commission's grant evaluation methodologies into two wholly separated procedures.
- Section 34 appropriates \$2.5M to an ill-defined fund and designates a pre-determined organization for that funding with insufficient statutory linkages to the services expected to be delivered.