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OACCD Support for the Criminal Justice Commission

Co-Chair Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair Chris Gorsek and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety, my name is Eric Guyer and I am the Director of Jackson County Community Justice. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors and our support for the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

It is my intent to further endorse the work that the Commission does within all of the communities of Oregon, bringing direct funding for programs that we know lead to more equitable and person-centered approaches for Oregonians who are justice-involved. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), the IMPACTS Grant Program and Specialty Courts are all predicated on the idea that social supports and community collaboration can reduce the need for emergency room visits, the state hospital, jail and prison. The CJC has worked collaboratively with counties to ensure that these supports and programs are delivered with accountability and transparency.

The Criminal Justice Commission is also an example of how an agency can create and lead through data and research. CJC dashboards are timely and provide guidance at the state and local level, allowing policy makers, practitioners and members of the public timely and accurate insight into way in which the criminal justice system works.

Finally, from the perspective of Community Corrections, and the importance of JRI funding, I want to emphasize how essential this funding is to providing critical services and supports. Funding provided by JRI assures our partners within the criminal justice system, particularly our courts and prosecutors, that adequate infrastructure is in place to offer optional outcomes for those individuals who are convicted of prison-eligible crimes. The incredible progress that JRI has made within our communities depends on full funding to continue the partnership that exists with our local continuum of criminal justice services. Without these partnerships and a fully funded JRI program, many Oregonians will be denied the opportunity to stay within their communities upon sentencing.