



# Legislative Testimony

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

### **RE: House Bill 3096**

Chair Bynum and members of the committee, my name is Nathaline Frener, and I serve as Assistant Director of the Correctional Services Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here today to provide testimony regarding House Bill (HB) 3096.

### **What the Bill Does:**

HB 3096 directs DOC to study issues specific to women in custody of the department and to provide results of the study to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2021.

### **Background Information:**

In 2019, when House Bill 3300 (which would have directed DOC to designate an employee of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility as gender-responsive officer) failed, a gender-responsive workgroup was established to review gender-responsive and trauma-informed practices at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF).

Due to the complexity and scope of issues, the workgroup recommended a formal assessment be completed to properly identify CCCF issues, the institution's strengths and weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement. The results of the assessment can be used to support gender-responsiveness training and drive enhancements to women's programming. However, DOC lacks the resources necessary to properly conduct an internal, specialized assessment specific to women in custody at CCCF; and based on experiences shared in the workgroup by former adults in custody, the workgroup recommended the assessment be conducted by a neutral, third-party expert.

The National Institute of Corrections, in partnership with national experts, developed a formal assessment to study issues specific to women in custody and on community supervision. This assessment, the Gender-Informed Practice Assessment (GIPA), is recommended to all federal, state, and community-based organizations wanting to evaluate how their agency is currently providing evidenced-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed practices to justice-involved women in their care.

The GIPA assesses 12 domains and includes pre-onsite work; onsite assessment of institution activities across all shifts including staff, leadership, observations, and various focus groups; evaluating and scoring gathered materials; report writing; and presentation. Ultimately, the

GIPA can identify broad areas of strength and challenge, as well as those which require more in-depth assessment.

DOC believes the study required by HB 3096 would benefit and further DOC's ongoing efforts to provide evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed programming and services at CCCF. However, for the reasons previously explained, the department will need to contract with a neutral third party for a GIPA to meet the requirements of HB 3096. In order to provide onsite administrative support to facilitate meetings with AICs, a limited duration position may be needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Submitted by:*

Oregon Department of Corrections

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