

February 2, 2022

TO: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and Members of the Committee:

As a former Adult Probation Officer for the City of Portland, and a State of Oregon Juvenile Parole Officer for North/Northeast Portland girls, I want to encourage you to fund Senate Bill 1522 and the Dash 3 and 4 Amendments that make positive strides in improving educational opportunities for girls and women of all ages who are currently in correctional facilities.

I am particularly pleased to see a provision that asks the Department of Corrections to develop a plan to provide the equipment, connectivity and infrastructure necessary to ensure that adults in custody in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and the Snake River Correctional Institution have online access to adult basic skills, professional and technical, and college or industry recognized credit or certification programs. Education for incarcerated girls and women has historically been underfunded and sexist in Oregon and the time has come to bring all of those in state custody the benefits that using their time productively so that reentry into the mainstream workforce is more successful.

I am a member of the American Association of University Women of Oregon and serve as a member of its State Public Policy Committee.

I urge the passage of Senate Bill 1522 as articulated above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharron Noone, Ph.D.
Portland, Oregon