



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Senate Bill 581

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am providing written testimony for Senate Bill (SB) 581.

What the Bill Does:

SB 581 would allow those convicted of certain felonies prior to January 1, 2022, to be eligible for a reduction in the amount of post-prison supervision served provided they meet all other requirements of the program. Such requirements include completion of at least 50% of their supervision period, compliance with supervision and completion or significant progress in treatment and programming, and a clearly defined restitution payment plan with proven progress towards paying off any restitution. In addition, the bill speaks to a more robust reporting and communication between parole officers and their clients; however, we have been working with the proponents of the bill to remove this language as it is currently in OAR 291-209.

Impact of the Bill:

DOC has determined that if the bill passes, it will create the opportunity for more than 9,500 cases to be sentence-eligible for a discharge. This is not actual individuals as many adults in custody have multiple convictions. The number of actual people would be substantially less. It also does not mean that all 9,500 cases would automatically be discharged from supervision. They would have to meet the criteria outlined in the paragraph above.

In the agency's review, it was also determined there would not be disparate outcome should this bill become law. In fact, the passage of this bill would slightly increase the percentage of eligible cases for African American clients.

Lastly, there is no fiscal impact on community supervision if this bill were to pass.

Background Information:

DOC, in collaboration with county community corrections agencies, have successfully overseen the Earned Discharge program for probationers since 2014. The Criminal Justice Commission's review of the program showed lower recidivism for this population overall.

Submitted by:

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