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TAX ID # 93-0639815

To: Members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary

From: Sponsors, Inc.

Submitted by Paul Solomon, Co-Executive Director

Date: February 7, 2023

Re: Support for SB 581

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I write to you today in support of SB 581.

Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of prisoner reentry services. We offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, mental health services and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community.

In 2013, we joined a coalition of organizations to reimagine how Oregon supports individuals involved in our criminal justice system through the development of the Justice Reinvestment Grant program. In that legislation, House Bill 3194 (2013), we implemented a statewide Earned Discharge Program, which has seen more than 6,300 individuals on *probation* successfully end their supervision early. Oregon's program has been studied by the Crime and Justice Institute because of its uniqueness and success.

The 2013 bill limited the Earned Discharge opportunity to people on *probation* after serving their sentence. In 2022 HB 2172 extended the ability to end supervision early to those on post prison supervision. This year, with SB 581, we seek to make the eligibility requirements aligned for people who are on parole, probation, *and* post-prison supervision. Specifically, we are grateful that SB 581 would allow those convicted of certain felonies prior to January 1, 2022, to be



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eligible for a reduction in the amount of post-prison supervision served provided they meet all other requirements of the program.

As a society, as a state, it is imperative that we find ways to acknowledge the dedication and work it takes to comply, and live with, the terms of post-prison parole and supervision. We have seen benefits from rewarding good behavior and want to extend those opportunities to more people.

These modifications to Earned Discharge will expand access to people who can benefit tremendously from the opportunity to reduce their time on supervision.

We know, through practice and research, that people who are on a positive path toward re-engaging in their communities and with their support networks have very low rates of recidivism. The opportunity to decrease the amount of time under formal supervision is good for people involved in our system and good for our communities.

This program is working. Please support SB 581 to extend this effective, unique and successful program to more Oregonians.