

I am writing in strong support of SB1007. Those wrongfully incarcerated, having lost years of their lives, incurred financial burdens, loss of jobs and ability to provide for family, and lost irreplaceable years with family and loved ones, DESERVE to be rightfully compensated.

It is utterly unacceptable that the state of Oregon is not currently compensating those who were wrongfully convicted. If passed, this would benefit the state in making an example of what happens with those wrongfully convicted. Between the costs of their trial, prison time and cost to compensate for wrongful incarceration, the state would save money to not be wrongfully incarcerating people to begin with.

As current law states, those wrongfully convicted are eligible to receive compensation at a rate of \$65,000 per year of wrongful incarceration, plus \$26,500 for each additional year served on parole or post-prison supervision or was required to register as a sex offender, whichever is greater (OJD, 2025).

Prison costs for AIC's are very high- between commissary costs, phone calls, and legal fees, in contrast to what they are able to earn by working while incarcerated. In Oregon, inmates can only earn \$8 to \$82 per month, based on the Performance Recognition and Reward System (Prison Policy Initiative, 2025).

Meanwhile, the Department of Corrections average salary in Oregon is 85 percent higher than the USA average and median salary is 95 percent higher than the US median salary. The highest salary at the Department of Corrections in 2023 was \$344,868. Number of employees at the Department of Corrections in 2023 was 4,936. Average annual salary was \$86,709 and median salary was \$84,900 (DOC, 2025). If the state can afford to be paying employees so much, they can afford to pay those wrongfully convicted.

This is fair and adequate considering the circumstances. The state should be held responsible for their original mistake and should compensate those deserving it. I am in FAVOR of SB1007.

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SOURCES

[Oregon Judicial Department : Statutory Tort Compensation & Wrongful Conviction Compensation : State of Oregon](#)

[Prison wages: Appendix | Prison Policy Initiative](#)

[Exoneree details 'levels of hell' as Oregon resists paying wrongfully convicted - OPB](#)

[Department of Corrections Salaries - Oregon](#)