



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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May 2, 2025

Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Critical Concerns Regarding HB 3069 Amendments – Ensuring Sustainable Public Safety

Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Vice-Chair Mannix, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, we appreciate the Legislature’s ongoing efforts to strengthen public safety outcomes through more coordinated and streamlined funding models. We recognize the thoughtful work behind the -1 and -2 amendments to House Bill 3069 and share the goal of improving service delivery and accountability.

At the same time, we have significant concerns that certain provisions in the amendments could create new challenges for counties like ours in sustaining and implementing critical criminal justice and behavioral health programs. We respectfully urge the Committee not to advance the -1 and -2 amendments in their current form.

A WELL-INTENDED RESTRUCTURE WITH UNINTENDED RISKS

The proposed amendments would merge several distinct funding streams—including Justice Reinvestment, Specialty Courts, Deflection, Restorative Justice, and others—into a single Oregon Public Safety Coordination Grant Program.

While integration may increase flexibility, it also presents significant risks:

- **Dilution of Specialized Programs:** Programs like Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court and Deflection initiatives may lose visibility and prioritization.
- **Internal Competition for Funds:** Counties would be forced to weigh jails, courts, supervision, and behavioral health against one another for limited dollars.
- **Loss of Subject-Matter Expertise:** Eliminating specialized grant review bodies removes key voices that understand the unique needs of specific programs.
- **Disadvantage for Rural Counties:** The complexity of a consolidated application and planning process places smaller counties like Clatsop at a disadvantage.
- **Increased Administrative Load:** The requirement for a Biennial Public Safety Plan will further strain already-limited staff capacity.

These changes would make it more difficult—not easier—for counties to sustain proven local strategies and meet community needs.

A 3% ADMINISTRATIVE CAP THREATENS PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

The proposal to lower the allowable administrative cost recovery from 10% to 3% is particularly concerning. This flat cap fails to recognize the real costs of managing increasingly complex and consolidated funding programs.

In the most recent biennium, Clatsop County received six grants totaling \$1.98 million from the Criminal Justice Commission. Of that, approximately \$167,768 (8.5%) supported essential administrative functions such as indirect costs, financial tracking, and program oversight.

Had the 3% cap been in effect, we would have received only \$59,335 for administration—a 65% reduction. The result would have been twofold:

- A forced diversion of local general funds away from other priorities, or
- Reduced oversight, jeopardizing program compliance and long-term success.

Administration is not an overhead burden—it is an operational necessity. Reducing support for these functions risks diminishing program performance and making it harder for counties to meet state goals.

INCLUDE CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS IN WELLNESS SUPPORT

The proposed definition of “first responder” within the Jason Myers Public Safety Wellness Grant Program currently excludes Corrections and Community Corrections professionals, even as it includes some non-sworn staff such as clerks and community service officers.

Corrections staff regularly work in high-stress environments and are frequently exposed to trauma and safety risks. These professionals face many of the same mental health and wellness challenges as other frontline responders.

Ensuring their inclusion in wellness resources would better align with the intent of the program—to promote the well-being of all public safety personnel who serve on the front lines of Oregon’s justice system.

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

Clatsop County values and appreciates the efforts to improve coordination and enhance public safety outcomes. To help ensure that HB 3069 achieves these important goals without unintended consequences, we respectfully offer the following recommendations:

- **Remove the 3% administrative cap.** Maintain the current 10% cap or allow flexibility based on county size and capacity.

- **Preserve dedicated funding for specialized programs.** Include safeguards that ensure Drug Courts, Deflection, and similar programs do not lose visibility or viability in a consolidated structure.¹
- **Maintain expert input through subject-specific advisory groups.**²
- **Reconsider the exclusion of Corrections professionals** from eligibility under the Public Safety Wellness Grant Program.
- **Provide initial technical assistance and capacity support** for the FY 2025-2027 biennium to smaller and rural counties to participate equitably under the proposed consolidated grant framework.

For these reasons, we strongly urge your NO vote on the proposed -1 and -2 amendments for HB 3069, specifically the 3% administrative cost cap, the exclusion of key public safety personnel, and any changes that could negatively impact the effectiveness and sustainability of local programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Kujala, Board Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners

¹ Task Force on Specialty Courts, [Specialty Courts: Report of the 82nd Legislative Assembly Task Force on Specialty Courts](#), Oregon State Legislature, November 8, 2024, Findings 4 (p. 42) and 5 (p. 43).

² Task Force on Specialty Courts, [Specialty Courts: Report of the 82nd Legislative Assembly Task Force on Specialty Courts](#), Oregon State Legislature, November 8, 2024, Adopted Recommendation 2 – Vote Explanation (p. 52).