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Chair Barker, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Williamson, and members of the Committee:

My name is John Calhoun and I am a resident of Portland. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Center for Christian Voices (OCCV) and speaking in favor of HB 3078.

Most of you are familiar with the verse in Matthew 25 where Jesus says 'I was in prison and you came to visit me' and then says 'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

This is not a statement that no one should be in prison, but rather that we should consider the humanity of prisoners.

I had a bright, young, woman employee who worked as an accountant in my business. She became hooked on prescription opioids following surgery and ended up embezzling a substantial sum from my business to maintain her addiction. She went to prison, but I stayed in touch with her and even testified on her behalf at a parole hearing. Today, because of family and friends who supported her she is now clean and productive, once again contributing to our society. Instead of costing the state to imprison her she is working and paying taxes.

HB 3078 helps multiply this success story by treating similar prisoners, especially addicts, in ways that consider their humanity with a goal of moving them back to their families, back as productive members of society. This saves our state resources in so many ways. It costs less in the short term, reduces the chance that their children will develop criminal behavior, and increases tax revenue.

Of course the big payoff in lower costs is avoiding opening another prison. If we can keep a few dozen women out of prison we can avoid millions in expenditures.

I will let others explain the details of how the programs will operate, but **I hope that you will support HB3078. It's the right thing to do.**

