



## ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

### Senate Bill 5506- Criminal Justice Commission

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*Committed To, And  
Value, Offender  
Reformation,  
Services to Victims,  
Crime Prevention,  
And Community  
Restoration*

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Co-Chair Jackie Winters, Co-Chair Carla Piluso, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety, my name is Jeff Wood and I am a Commander with the Marion County Sheriff's Office. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) and our support of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today.

I wish to highlight the success and support the CJC's implementation of the state's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), which was created during the 2013 legislative session. This funding and support within Marion County alone, has allowed us to expand and enhance our prison reentry and prison diversion programs, leading to a decrease in our historical prison utilization by over 11,000 prison months; as measured from January 2014 - December 2018. Additionally, supports contributed through JRI have allowed Short-Term Transitional Leave (STTL) to save an additional 1,900 prison months, with a 95% successful completion rate. Statewide, JRI implementation and supports have saved the state almost 32,000 prison months and avoided costs. Without a doubt, support from the CJC and funding through JRI has helped our success in diverting historically prison bound individuals to community supervision and services without increasing our rate of crime. Additionally, the CJC has been a steadfast partner, both locally and with the state as a whole, to jurisdictions tasked with JRI implementation, specialty court grants, data analysis, and technical support.

Although OACCD's support of the CJC and JRI is unwavering, our success is built upon the foundation of a fully funded community corrections system. Similar in concept to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, without that foundation, we risk undoing a proven JRI strategy. I note this as the Governors Balanced Budget does not provide what we believe to be current service level funding for community corrections and within the intent and agreements of SB 1145 (1995 session).

Like JRI, SB1145 was created during the 1995 Legislative Session and has proven successful as evidenced statewide in many ways through effective local programs, cost effective interventions, and sanctions. The community corrections system that has grown as a result of SB 1145 has two critical benefits for the state. First, our system improves public safety by lowering recidivism, which means fewer victims of crime in our communities. Second, we save taxpayers money both through improved public safety outcomes, and cost avoidance. Oregon's Community Corrections system reduces our use of more expensive prison and jails, reserving prison for the most serious offenders, while still keeping the community safe.

Today I am requesting you fully fund Community Corrections and the JRI because of our public safety track record, and remind the committee, we are one of the few systems you can support that we know will save the state money in these budget strained times. We also ask you to consider the unintended consequences associated with funding Community Corrections below the "true costs" tied to the Actual Cost Study.

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### **Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Continue with Full Funding**

- Governor's Balanced Budget for 2019 – 2021 is at \$39 million, below the agency request budget of 41.6 million. Additionally, JRI Supplemental Funding needs to be maintained at \$7.2 million.
- Since 2013, Community Corrections agencies have been working with public safety partners to invest Justice Reinvestment dollars into evidence-based programs to keep people out of prison. In addition to supervision, services include:
  - Pre-Sentence Risk and Need Reports
  - Drug and alcohol treatment;
  - Mental health services;
  - Housing assistance;
  - Mentoring & Parenting;
  - Educational & Employment assistance;
- JRI represents a renewed commitment that had been absent for years. For some counties, JRI money has meant the opportunity to reinvest in programs that had been cut due to years of budget shortfalls.
- JRI has successfully reduced the use of prisons beds.
- Results are showing JRI works:
  - A statewide analysis shows that from December 2013 to December 2018 ninety-one percent (91%) of Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL) were successfully completed.
  - From January 2014 to December 2018, JRI has resulted in a cost avoidance of over 18,000 prison months, based on the historical statewide average.
- JRI has proven to be the most successful in the counties where the public safety partners, including victims' advocates and the business community, have come together and agreed on programs and plans, providing opportunities for a new way of doing business where public safety partners come together to collaborate.
- Partners are working in new ways to bring important programs and services together to create a comprehensive system that will increase public safety, reduce future victimization, and save taxpayer dollars.

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### **Community Corrections Funding:**

- The \$259 million allocated in the Governor's proposed budget for Community Corrections 1145 funding triggers the Opt-Out.
- \$322 million is required to fund at the Actual Cost Study completed by the Department of Corrections.
  - Proposed budget and workload reductions would negatively impact positions, services, and programming provided by Community Correction departments across the State.
  - As outlined in Oregon Revised Statute 423.483(3) and the Corrections Forecast, OACCD believes the current service level funding for community corrections be determined at \$322 million.

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