

RED LODGE TRANSITION SERVICES
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TO: House Committee on Judiciary

FR: Trish Jordan, Red Lodge

DA: March 14, 2019

RE: Support for HB 3064, the accountability and Equity Act

Chair Williamson, Vice Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Trish Jordan and I am the Executive Director and co-founder of Red Lodge Transition Services. Red Lodge is a Native American led organization that provides culturally responsive programs primarily for women releasing from jail, prison and treatment centers.

While Justice Reinvestment has been a good approach to public safety, we believe that the program can more effectively and equitably reach historically under-served communities. That's why we support the Accountability and Equity Act (HB 3064).

I mentioned our 'culturally responsive programming', which is proven to be Best Practice for the individual and communities of color, LGBT people, and rural communities. Culture is defined as art, social institutions, food and achievements of a particular nation, people or other social group. Many times culture is reflected in our religious preferences, world views, hair, clothing, speech, shared experiences, attitudes and beliefs. Trauma survivors usually have serious trust issues. In order for adult mentoring to take place, trusting people you are working with is essential.

Reentry is done in multiple phases and is never a 'one size fits all'. It requires supportive services from a variety of agencies, organizations and individuals. Successful reentry includes community involvement and reaches beyond 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday excluding holidays. It is imperative that our leaders are transparent and accountable to the public for Justice Reinvestment dollars. Under-served communities are represented disproportionately within county, state and federal judicial systems. What investments are being made to improve and prevent incarceration using a 'boots on the ground' approach?

HB 3064 will ensure that more attention is being paid to how communities of color and other historically under-served communities are benefiting from Justice Reinvestment grants. I believe this is an important next step in Oregon's work for building a more equitable criminal Justice system, and I urge your support.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia Jordan, RN, BSN, PSS, Executive Director

