



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

SB 935:

Statement of Support to Expand Short Term Transitional Leave

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Senate Judiciary Chairman Floyd Prozanski, Co-Chair Senator Kim Thatcher, and members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly's Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Steve Berger and I am the Director of Washington County Community Corrections. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD).

The OACCD wishes to voice general support of SB 935 which seeks to expand Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL) beyond the current 90 day maximum for certain specified sentences. In July 2013 the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3194, known as the Justice Reinvestment Act. HB 3194 included language directing DOC to identify inmates eligible for STTL and allowed DOC to increase the number of inmates who receive a maximum of 90 days leave. During the subsequent years, the DOC enhanced their re-entry efforts in partnership with Community Corrections and STTL has been the single most successful strategy preventing the expansion of our prison system.

It should be noted, in a 2017 review by the Criminal Justice Commission, inmates who participate in the STTL program show lower 1-year and 2-year recidivism rates than inmates who were statutorily eligible and did not participate. Specifically:

- ✓ The 2-year incarceration rate for the STTL group dropped 17.4% compared to the non-STTL group;
- ✓ The 2-year conviction rate for the STTL group dropped 10.0% compared to the non-STTL group; and
- ✓ The 2-year arrest rate for the STTL group dropped 4% in the arrest rate.

Community Corrections and the Department of Corrections are continuing to work together closer than ever in coordinating release and re-entry. We highlight the success of STTL to emphasize again the strength of the state – county partnership. At this time, we have demonstrated success with 90 day STTL and we support expanding the maximum length. Although the OACCD is not advocating for a specific length of expanded STTL, we support the opportunity for each county in partnership with DOC to provide transition services beyond the current 90 day maximum. The question moving forward is finding the right balance of transition length and community resources to continue our success.

We look forward to working with the Legislature and our criminal justice stakeholders in determining the next steps for STTL.

Thank you for your consideration.

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