



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 3380

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, for the record, I am Larry Bennett, the Community Corrections Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to share information related to HB 3380.

What the Bill Does:

HB 3380 modifies eligibility for the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot (FSAP) Program and appropriates moneys to the DOC and Department of Human Services (DHS) for the purpose of funding and expanding the FSAP Program.

Background Information:

Oregon's FSAP Program, which was modeled after a similar program in Washington State, was created by HB 3503 during the 2015 legislative session. The goals of the program are to address the specific needs of parents involved in the criminal justice system, to reduce the utilization of foster care when the parent is not a risk to harm his/her children, and to address the increasing numbers of those incarcerated by considering probation as an appropriate sentence in cases where better, more intensive local options exist. Multnomah, Washington, Marion, Deschutes, and Jackson counties began programs in their jurisdictions, with support from DOC and the Department of Human Services (DHS), and to date we have seen the following successes:

- During 2016, 75 participants engaged in the program, impacting the lives of 139 children who would have otherwise ended up in the foster care system.
- To date, only two participants have been revoked and sent to prison.
- Although anecdotal, involved parole officers are reporting increased engagement and motivation of offenders while on supervision, increased enthusiasm for the future, and we credit this to the great collaboration between parole officers and DHS caseworkers.

Issues Addressed by the Bill:

Overall, the participation numbers are small and the program has room for growth, thus the need to remove the criminal history restrictions. With passage of this bill, the courts will be able to consider a greater number of participants, who are already eligible for a departure from prison, but due to their

criminal history restrictions, or the fact they were experiencing their first pregnancy at the time of sentencing, are unable to participate in this program.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

Larry Bennett, Community Corrections Administrator

larry.w.bennett@doc.state.or.us

Phone: (503) 945-7101