



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

Senate Bill 5504

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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, members of the Joint 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 would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today.

The Community Corrections system in Oregon that has evolved as a result of SB 1145 (1995) has two critical benefits for the state. First, our system improves public safety through local jurisdictions setting priorities to lower recidivism; which means fewer victims of crime in our communities. Second, we save taxpayer funds; both through improved public safety outcomes, and cost avoidance: Oregon's Community Corrections system embraces evidence-based practices; reduces our use of more expensive prison and jails. By keeping clients accountable in their local community and providing them treatment and services that decrease their chances of reoffending, we help to reserve prison for the most serious offenders while maintaining community safety.

I know others will testify today describing successful programs and personal stories of recovery. However, the pathway back to our communities is built upon the foundation of a strong partnership between the state, local community leadership, and Community Corrections programs designed to facilitate positive change.

I come to you with a significant ask: To fully fund of Community Corrections at the Actual Cost Study (ACS) funding level of \$319 million dollars. I note this as the Governors Balanced Budget allocates *current service level* below a level we are currently receiving, and facing a potential 5% across-the-board reduction that will trigger an opt-out of the state-county partnership. It will also put the almost \$47 million dollars in county "in-kind" funding at risk. My hope today is to relay, if the actual cost study is not funded, Community Corrections agencies throughout Oregon will be forced to initiate a reduction to services which significantly undermine, if not outright eliminate, the progress that has been made in decreasing prison population, and to the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) efforts achieved over the years. OACCD believes we have a long-standing and proven public safety track record. We are one of the few groups that only requests funding based on the current population we serve. The end goal is decreasing our total clientele through successful partnerships, evidence-based programming, and positive change. Over the years we have significantly decreased the total correctional population, helped avoid significant prison costs, embraced evidence-based practices promoting client change, all while maintaining community safety and accountability.

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Actual Cost Study (ACS)

The Oregon Department of Corrections, in collaboration with the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors, must submit an Actual Cost Study to the legislature every six years as required by ORS 423.486(1). The purpose of this study is to determine the time and monies spent on the 30,000 people under some type of formal criminal justice supervision; which is then used to determine the *daily rate per client*. The calculation determining current service level defines the calculated cost of continuing current legislatively-funded programs, phased-in programs, and increased caseloads minus one-time costs. Additionally, the calculation also includes phased-out programs and pilot programs, with the remainder adjusted for inflation as determined by the Legislative Assembly in its biennial appropriation to the Department of Corrections. This exhaustive two-year process resulted in an increased daily rate of \$14.24 per client which increases the baseline community corrections funding to \$319 million. It should be noted the old daily rate of \$11.69 was based upon an Actual Cost Study that was over a decade old and never fully implemented. Further, this is the first Actual Cost Study taking into account the financial and evidence-based impacts of Senate Bill 267 (2003).

Current Service Level harms our Communities

Community Corrections baseline funding serves as the foundation for our all community corrections services; balancing supervision, sanctions, and services designed to facilitate positive change. Our success is built upon the foundation of a fully funded Community Corrections system, which in-turn has allowed for the statewide success of Justice Reinvestment, Measure 57, and Family Sentencing Alternative Programs. Similar in concept to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs; without that foundation, we cannot actualize the shared goals of continued success, a more sustainable system for rehabilitation of offenders and safer communities. The Actual Cost Study recalibrates community corrections baseline funding and without that foundational support, counties will have to scale back supports and services such as the following examples:

- ✓ In Marion County, we are reducing 7.5 full-time positions. Additionally, we are eliminating a highly successful drug treatment program within our transition center, eliminating over \$200,000 in transitional housing and cognitive programming.
- ✓ In Washington County, failure to fund the ACS will result in the closure of a 36 bed Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program within the Community Corrections Center, 5 full-time positions, reducing the number of contract mentors, and the elimination of all non-sex offender and non-JRI housing.

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- ✓ In Coos County, current service level without the ACS would result in the reduction of Transitional Housing dollars and full-time staff.

In a sample survey (20%) of OACCD represented agencies, community corrections baseline funding supports for transitional housing alone equate to over \$2.3 million dollars. In short, funding below the ACS equates to an increase in the homeless population, fewer treatment services, limited access to mentors, and significantly higher caseload numbers.

Justice Reinvestment (JRI) and Short-Term Transitional Leave (STTL)

Support of adequate baseline funding has been instrumental to the success of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Within Marion County alone, JRI allowed us to expand and enhance 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 60,000 prison days, with a 95% successful completion rate. Statewide, JRI implementation and supports have saved the state almost 32,000 prison months and avoided costs, and STTL alone have saved the state over 440,000 prison days in avoided costs. Without a doubt, our shared success in diverting historically prison-bound individuals to community supervision and services have worked without increasing our rate of crime. Our efforts have also negated the need to open a new state prison past the 10-year horizon.

Marion County STTL:

General:

All numbers and charts below include all lengths of STTL. Jail bed days used and (un)successful completion numbers cannot be considered final until the total number of STTL days (30, 90, 120) have passed from the beginning date of an individual's STTL release date, thus most recent calendar months are not always displayed.

Steps for filtering data further:

1. Select a county by clicking on the map
2. Select date level (month, quarter, year), charts only
3. View the legends to the far right for interpreting what each line represents



All STTL January 2014 to February 2019

Releases to STTL	Prison Bed Days Saved	Jail Bed Days Used	Successful Completion	Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful w/New Crime
905	60,060	1,446	95.0%	5.0%	2.4%

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Statewide STTL:

General:

All numbers and charts below include all lengths of STTL.
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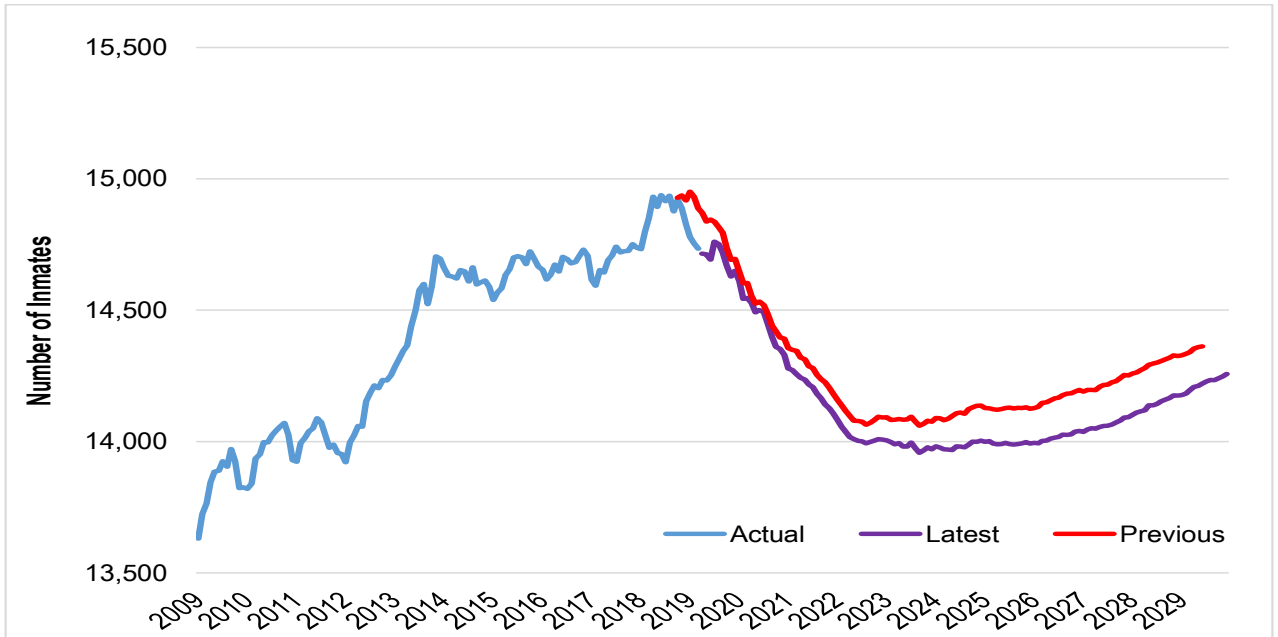
Select Date Level

Monthly (past 1 year)

All STTL January 2014 to February 2019

Releases to STTL	Prison Bed Days Saved	Jail Bed Days Used	Successful Completion	Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful w/New Crime
6,750	440,573	8,686	91.7%	8.3%	3.0%

April 2019 All Inmates DOC Forecast



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Public Safety 5% reduction Triggers Opt-Out

The across the board 5% reduction to all public safety budgets as it stands will trigger an “*Opt-out*” of the state-county partnership within community corrections. Such a reduction in funding will initiate two discussions: 1) which felony services will the legislature eliminate, and 2) which counties will pursue the opt-out clause within the state-county partnership without a workload reduction.

The term *opt-out* refers to a clause within the original legislation, SB1145, which transferred responsibility for Community Corrections from the state to Oregon’s 36 counties. The *opt-out* clause allows counties to return responsibility for Community Corrections to the state if there is a failure by the state to fully fund the service; ending over two decades of successful partnership.

Conclusion: Now is the time Oregon needs a strong Community Corrections system more than ever

- ✓ Baseline funding for Community Corrections must be maintained at \$319 million for 2019-2021
 - Maintain caseloads designed to facilitate change, not simply manage emergencies
 - Continue funding evidence-based programs and services
 - Support funding to address homeless and mental health supports
 - Support of reunification of families
 - Maintain community Safety

- ✓ 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 Reports;
 - Drug and Alcohol Treatment;
 - Mental Health Services;
 - Transitional Housing;
 - Mentoring;
 - Cognitive and Parenting Classes;
 - Educational and Employment assistance.

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