



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Rules

Re: Senate Bill 1002A

Chair Holvey and members of the committee, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am writing in support of SB 1002A.

What the Bill Does:

SB 1002 prohibits prosecuting attorneys from waiving eligibility to certain DOC programs.

Background Information:

For a corrections system to change behavior and provide safe and secure custody and supervision, we must be able to utilize a wide range of incentives and deterrents. Programs such as transitional leave (early release from prison when an individual has complied with all programming) and sentence reductions are great motivators for compliance, as well as cost savers proven to be effective in our justice reinvestment initiative.

Transitional leave has not only been a motivating program for good behavior, it has proven to reduce recidivism. Two studies conducted by the Criminal Justice Commission have shown the population receiving this program have lower recidivism rates than those ineligible to participate. Furthermore, this program has saved the state more than 1,200 years of prison time since the expansion of the program under HB 3194 (2013).

All DOC programs have safeguards, or checks and balances, to ensure only individuals who have met the strict criteria of compliance receive the benefit of the programs. Given this, there is little need to limit these incentives on the front end before a person has been given the opportunity to benefit from them during their term of incarceration.

Requested Action:

For the reasons explained above, the department respectfully requests your support of SB 1002A. I am available should you wish to further discuss the DOC programs impacted by this bill.

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

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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