



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Criminal Justice Commission

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Ken Sanchagrin
Executive Director

2 March 2021

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
The Honorable Kim Thatcher, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

COMMISSIONERS:

Robert Ball, Chairman
Sen. Floyd Prozanski*
Rep. Duane Stark*
Jessica Beach
Rob Bovett
Wally Hicks
Jessica Kampfe
Sebastian Tapia

RE: Senate Bill 720 (Family Preservation Project Grant Program)

*Non-Voting

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 720, which would authorize funding for a pilot of the Family Preservation Project, a program provided by the YWCA of Greater Portland to female adults in custody in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

As proposed in Senate Bill 720, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission would be tasked with providing state funds to the YWCA of Greater Portland while also providing research and analysis support to assist the grantee in evaluating the efficacy of its program. The Commission and its staff are prepared to undertake these tasks and does not anticipate requiring additional internal support to do so.

I also want to express my support for Senate Bill 720 more broadly based on the work that the Family Preservation Project has performed over the past decade. Academic research demonstrates that maintaining strong connections with loved ones while incarcerated leads to more successful outcomes for adults in custody upon release. Further, criminological research also indicates that the creation and maintenance of strong bonds with parents acts as a significant protective factor for children against participation in delinquent and criminal behavior as they move into adolescence and young adulthood. Importantly, the Family Preservation Project provides services that impact both of these populations. Indeed, the program serves approximately 150 women and almost 400 children per month providing valuable services that, according to their internal tracking, have had great success over the years in reducing recidivism, maintaining placement of children with their parents, and improving a wide range of academic and social outcomes for children of incarcerated mothers.

If the Legislature elects to pass Senate Bill 720 and to fund the Family Preservation Project, the CJC will be happy to administer this grant during the 2021-2023 biennium and excited to work with the YWCA of Greater Portland as a research partner.

If you require any additional information, or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

Ken Sanchagrin

