



March 10, 2021

RE: House Bill 5004

Co-Chair Senator Gorsek and Co-Chair Representative Sollman, & members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

Washington County aims to be a strong and collaborative partner with the State in the pursuit of advancing justice. Supporting a robust justice system allows our richly diverse community to be served meaningfully, professionally and equitably. Community Corrections is Oregon's criminal justice system "long-game" where we apply proven evidence-based practices. Our work is effective and comprehensive, delivering long term change through the foundation of a working "change agent" relationship. For example, we help find homes, employment, and provide trauma-informed and gender-responsive treatment for those suffering from substance abuse and mental health disorders. Given our richly diverse community, it is critical that we continue to meet the needs of all in a nuanced, trauma informed and equitable approach.

We want to share with you the success of two unique programs implemented in Washington County as part of the state's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI): **Integrated Re-Entry Intensive Supervision and Services (IRISS)** and **Short-Term Transitional Leave**.

The Washington County IRISS program provides the Court an enhanced community supervision alternative to prison utilizing concepts of Risk, Need, and Responsivity to determine viable sentencing options. The program boasts an **85.5% success** rate since 2018 with a correlating recidivism rate of only 14.5%. Further, the five-year recidivism rate for IRISS is only 24.71%.

Short-term transitional leave (STTL) was developed to enhance the transition planning process for inmates with a focus on outcomes. STTL provides an incentive to successfully complete recommended programming to create a more effective plan for a successful transition. In Washington County the **STTL program has a 90.9% success**. This saves the State Department of Corrections (DOC) prison cost **avoidance \$6.9 million**.

These programs are successful because of the investment from the State. However, the current funding proposed within the Governor's Recommended Budget threatens this investment and the level of supervision and services we will be able to deliver. Washington County strongly urges you to invest an additional \$25.6 million as proposed by the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors, Oregon State Sheriff's Association, and the Association of Oregon Counties. These funds represent an accounting for the actual cost of serving justice-involved individuals equitably and with approaches that lead to lasting behavior change.

Based on the Governor's proposed budget we are facing a budget reduction of close to \$3 million. For Washington County these reductions include staff FTE elimination, the closure of 72 beds within the Community Corrections Center; and elimination of wraparound Services: including treatment subsidy for Domestic Violence & Sex Crimes, Mentor Contracts, and Clean & Sober Housing subsidies.

The vast majority of resources within the Oregon Department of Corrections budget are allocated to prisons. There is no question prisons are an essential part of Oregon's criminal justice system and custody continuum. However, for 9 out of 10 adults in custody who **will be returning** to our communities can be held accountable and managed safely in the community at a significantly lower cost. In contrast to other government functions

you are hearing from this session, we are one of the few public safety agencies that can save the state money through our practices.

For example, in 2020 the State housed **12,600 adults in custody** at the rate of \$116 per day. However, the State spends over nine times less supervising over **28,600 justice involved individuals** at an average rate of \$12.067 per day during the 19-21 biennium. While we recognize the need for prisons as part of our public safety continuum, Oregon's commitment to prisons has far outpaced spending on probation and parole.

In conclusion Washington County would like to emphasize the success of the state-county partnership in community corrections. We have a proven program in community supervision, and we look forward to working with the legislature to capitalize on our success in cost effective community supervision. Investing an additional \$25.6 million will improve public safety through proven programs impacting recidivism, reducing future victims, and fiscal savings through cost avoidance.

Thank you for your time and continued partnership,

Jagjit Nagra, Government Relations Manager

