

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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March 16 , 2021

The Hon. Janelle Bynum
Chair
Oregon House Judiciary Committee

Re: Testimony in support of H.B. 3035

Dear Rep. Bynum and Committee members:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to testify in strong support of H.B. 3035. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with more than 35,000 members across the country, including more than 1,000 members in Oregon. FFRF protects the constitutional separation between state and church, and educates about nontheism.

On its face, H.B. 3035's healthcare navigator pilot program is a positive bill to help ensure that incarcerated individuals will receive the healthcare needs they are entitled to. Until our country addresses mass incarceration properly, the very least states ought to do is to remain attentive and responsive to the health needs of anyone they incarcerate.

On a deeper level, H.B. 3035 also confronts another problem that our organization and members are working to fix: the obstruction of comprehensive healthcare for women and transgender individuals by religion. Incarcerated individuals are at a further disadvantage in seeking this care, and it is admirable for the state to proactively assist this effort.

Thank you for supporting H.B. 3035. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to email me at rjayne@ffrf.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan D. Jayne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan D. Jayne
Staff Attorney