



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Re: Senate Bill 497

Chair Prozanski 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 providing testimony related to SB 497.

What the Bill Does:

SB 497 requires county community corrections departments to supervise, sanction, and provide services to offenders convicted of designated person misdemeanors. Designated person misdemeanors include assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic violence (ORS 163.160 (4)), menacing constituting domestic violence (ORS 163.190 (3)), and sex abuse in the third degree (ORS 163.415).

Based on a recent study conducted by DOC and the Criminal Justice Commission, the agency anticipates the bill will have a fiscal impact in 2021-23 of \$7 million.

Background Information:

Currently, the Legislature provides funding for all felony and some drug misdemeanors to ensure supervision occurs. Since the domestic violence and sex offender crimes listed above are misdemeanors, DOC does not allocate any funding to the counties to supervise these individuals. Counties must find other means, such as county general funds or grant dollars, to supervise this population. Currently, less than 10 counties are able to provide financial assistance for this population.

The passage of SB 497 would ensure all counties could utilize formal supervision, should the court choose to place the person on probation. This would create consistency and accountability for individuals who cause significant harm to their victims, and how similar cases are responded to across the state. Community corrections ensure individuals are on supervision for specified crimes for the appropriate duration of time. Creating the opportunity for these crimes to be formally supervised will have a positive impact on public safety and the lives of the victims impacted.

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

Submitted by:

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