



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

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*Committed To, And
Value, Offender
Reformation,
Services to Victims,
Crime Prevention,
And Community
Restoration*

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OACCD Support for SB 497

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Eric Guyer and I am the Director of Jackson County Community Justice. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors and our support for Senate Bill 497.

Crimes of violence against intimate partners have long term implications on the survivors including financial, physical and mental health needs. Violence and abuse committed within the family affect the victims, but also their children, and communities. When violence is used in a relationship, safety and trust are disrupted or destroyed. Underlying beliefs about the justification of violence to maintain control in a relationship are often the precursors to these crimes. Supervised probation allows for the Probation Officer to effectively blend surveillance and safety with cognitive behavioral interventions to motivate and enforce behavior change. Probation Officers effectively work with the supervised individual to address those underlying beliefs, along with any co-occurring issues including substance abuse. In addition, Probation Officers are able to listen to the needs and concerns of the survivor and their families and adjust the case plan based on the individual's risks and behaviors. Misdemeanor crimes of violence can be just as harmful to the long-term impacts of the survivor and their families and appropriate intervention can deter future escalation.

This bill does not change the sentence for the listed crimes, but it does ensure that there are safety measures and supports put in place when the sentence is enacted. This bill will mean that the crimes of Assault IV constituting Domestic Violence, Menacing constituting Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse in the Third degree will be fully funded for supervision. Community Corrections has the expertise to assess and address the risk factors associated with hands-on victimization and have the tools to implement effective case plans. We are continuing to refine community-based intervention programs that address behaviors and create safer communities.

Because these misdemeanor crimes pose a risk both to the general public as well as victims, many Counties throughout the state have decided to fund some specific supervision services with the aim of preventing escalation in abuse behaviors and to further prevent prison usage. This shows the importance of the role that supervision plays within these cases. Community Corrections is committed to holding individuals accountable while identifying services needed to change behavior. At the core of this commitment is supporting survivors in providing a response that builds safety and support. This Bill will ensure that in Oregon, safety is not dependent on geographic location.



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Community Corrections has greatly reduced its footprint. We are in the process of providing supervision for the right amount of time, at the right level of intensity. We are looking at providing the right evidence-based interventions and supports. This Bill will help ensure that services are provided to the right population.