

To the members of this hearing:

I ask that you support HB 3229. The burden when jailing a person in Oregon, or anywhere, should always be upon the government. There is a duty to provide a justification for stripping a person of their rights as well as the accompanying care that the duty bestows upon the state. If Oregon is jailing a person, therefore, it has a resulting responsibility to care for that person. Almost anyone would agree with this truth. Basic necessities such as food and water should be provided, and some measure of health care needs to be provided to fulfill that responsibility.

The language of the impact of this bill is important to note. It “*directs* the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to *convene* advisory council to *assist* with recommendations related to health care standards in local correctional facilities.” The impact of HB 3229 then is to merely provide an assessment of the health care standards in correctional facilities. This is the minimum duty that the state has toward its people.

Health care within correctional facilities should not be overlooked. Many of the people that are housed in these facilities already lack access to basic care, and it may be a causing factor in the reason they are jailed in the first place. Further, being confined in a correctional facility is unlikely to help health problems and may in fact exacerbate them, particularly with regard to mental health. These are the same facilities where the COVID-19 pandemic spread rapidly throughout the country due to poor health care standards. If we are to consider the purpose of these facilities as *correctional*, we should provide a proper assessment of the health care standards within our local correctional facilities. HB 3229 should therefore be supported.

Thank you for your time,

Julian K. Meyer