

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Karin Power, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB 2912 – Reauthorizing Re*Membering

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

The Insight Alliance supports the passage of House Bill 2912 (Rep. Sanchez). HB 2912 improves the health and safety of Oregon communities by reauthorizing funding for Re*Membering, which provides reentry-focused civil legal services to women during incarceration and reduces barriers to a successful return to the community.

Our mission is to transform the lives of adults and youth in prison and on parole by pointing them to their innate resilience and wellbeing. We work at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and with many of the women who have benefited from Re*Membering. We know firsthand how challenging it can be for people re-entering their communities upon release from prison. There are a slew of barriers that people face from finding housing to getting IDs to securing living wage jobs. Many challenges faced by formerly incarcerated people are a result of civil legal issues unaddressed during or exacerbated by incarceration, as well as more than one thousand Oregon laws and policies that are barriers to full participation in society by those with criminal histories. Access to civil legal services is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

Re*Membering has already done amazing work (despite the COVID-19 pandemic) that will impact communities statewide. Since it began meeting with clients in late November 2019, Re*Membering has:

- Served nearly 60 women, more than 55% identifying as BIPOC, addressing 1 to 6 different legal matters each; and
- Served women releasing to 20 different counties with 75% releasing outside the metropolitan tri-county (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas) area.

There is a real need for these services. In the first three months, Re*Membering received over 200 requests for services. The Insight Alliance urges you to vote yes on HB 2912.

Sincerely,



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