



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 Pathfinder Network 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.

Almost everyone incarcerated in Oregon will return to our communities one day. At The Pathfinder Network, we provide programs and services that support criminal justice system impacted individuals, and yet skills and a genuine commitment to change may not be enough for post-prison success due to overwhelming legal, social, and economic barriers.

The people we work with face a wide range of civil legal issues that impact their transition into the community: child custody and parental right, debt, housing and employment, suspended/revoked driver licenses, real property, property, and other basic human needs. Obtaining the legal services necessary for navigating these challenges should not be another barrier. We must reduce the burden, not make it harder, for justice system-impacted individuals and their families to be successful.

Investing in civil legal services for currently incarcerated people will help reduce the risk of recidivism and increase the chances of stability. By passing HB 2912 and making an investment now in civil legal assistance during incarceration, Oregon can save taxpayer dollars and improve the health and safety of our families and communities.

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
- Has 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. The Pathfinder Network urges you to vote yes on HB 2912.

Sincerely,

Leticia Longoria Navarro  
Interim Executive Director