

Samantha Gladu
333 SE 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
samantha@nextuporegon.com



February 9, 2021

Chair Bynum and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

We are Next Up Action Fund, formerly known as the Bus Project, our mission is to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. As an organization that builds political power and strong, effective leadership pipelines for diverse young people, our work and our communities are greatly impacted by the reentry is so chronically under supported, and legal resources are scarce. We support HB 2912 which is an important step toward rectifying this problem.

Approximately 27% of incarcerated Oregonians are aged 30 and under, and the average age of incarcerated Oregonians is 40. When young people are incarcerated, they're missing out on important life milestones. And, while people are in prison they're in an environment which doesn't fully support addressing the root causes and consequences of why they're incarcerated.

It is critically important for the legislature to reauthorize Re*Membering, because it provides civil legal assistance to people incarcerated in Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF) to address legal issues that might become or already are barriers to their successful reentry into the community. It is a pilot program of the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC) established in 2019 through funding authorized by the legislature with great results. In fact, the program should be bigger.

Access to civil legal services is difficult to obtain. Once released, most people cannot afford an attorney. Pro bono attorneys and legal aid cannot meet the demand. Due to the specialized nature of legal work and the breadth of legal issues one person may face, a single attorney in the community generally cannot provide the person enough assistance.

Please send HB 2912 to the floor with a do-pass recommendation, sign onto the bill in support, and encourage your colleagues to support the bill as well.

Thank you,

Samantha Gladu
Executive Director, Next Up Action Fund