



## ALEX CUYLER

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Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
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DATE: February 10, 2021  
TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety  
RE: SB 5005, Criminal Justice Commission biennial budget

Dear Co Chair Senator Gorsek and Representative Bynum and Members of the Subcommittee:

Lane County has followed the process by which the Criminal Justice Commission made their agency request to the Governor's Office and what the Governor's Recommended Budget proposes for this agency. As you contemplate this State Agency's role in the context of statewide service delivery we ask that you consider our perspective on the importance of the services rendered by the Criminal Justice Commission:

- The Specialty Court program is a highly effective and targeted funding stream that allows those facing prosecution a path out of the criminal justice system as long as the defendant remains motivated and able to meet court ordered criteria. I've sat in on Drug Court proceedings and seen first-hand the personal relationships that are developed between the Judge, their staff, and the defendant. This is a proven tool and we urge you to fund this program at a minimum of \$20.225M for the coming biennium.
- The IMPACTS Program must not become a "one and done" project within Oregon. The focus of this grant program was to operate at the intersection of behavioral and mental health systems and the criminal justice system and in our view it is imperative that this work continue. Over 60% of the inmates within our jail have a documented mental or behavioral health issue and the jail environment is not conducive to treatment. We urge you to restore the Agency request to \$20M for the coming biennium.
- Lane County is supportive of the CJC's efforts to increase accountability for the use of Justice Reinvestment Funding. Since the inception of JRI the CJC continues to evolve randomized control studies to ensure that the resources dedicated to Justice Reinvestment are proven to work and accountability has always been a core tenant of this program.

Lane County would like to emphasize that our experience with this agency has been an exceedingly positive one. Staff are accessible, and programs it undertakes are pertinent to what is occurring on the ground in our County. If anything, we urge the Committee to continue to contemplate what new roles this agency can undertake, particularly within the realm of substance abuse disorder treatment systems, and by taking the lead in coordinating with Judicial and Health agencies when it comes to improved outcomes for those individuals who continually ping pong between both systems.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER