

For me this is an easy no on HB 2002.

I looked at both sides from a variety of perspectives including those victims who have been incarcerated, as well as popular political movements right now.

Justice is directly connected with healing for the victim, and accountability is connected to the proper and permanent reform of the offender. This bill would deny both while putting victims and officers at risk.

Although the supporters of this bill focus on equability, particularly with the BIPOC community, there is no focus on the reform for women which often receive just as much bias in justice systems as people of color. The racial movements are a hot topic right now (which is great) but I would hate to see gender equability left behind. "Women's incarceration has grown at twice the pace of men's incarceration in recent decades" (Kajstura, 2019). Kajstura explains one of the reasons for this is that women are less likely to be able to afford bail than her male counterpart and most of the 80% of women incarcerated are the primary caregiver of children. According to Bass, a reporter for the Boston Globe, 90% of women who are incarcerated for violence crimes, particularly murder, committed those crimes against someone who had been abusing them. This is arguably self defense, but women in all court arenas (criminal, civil, family) are held to a higher standard. So yes, there needs to be a reform for equity, but HB 2002 is not the answer.

The supporters of HB 2002 are proposing only a 5% increase in the Justice Reinvestment for victims. This is not enough and the state is already desperately lacking in this area of funding.

Three weeks and sometimes three months, but often much longer, is not long enough for victims to heal sufficiently (codependency, PTSD, etc.) to want to leave or even to start the preparation and safety planning process of leaving the dangerous situation before the abuser is released. In one case I worked on the abuser was out of prison before the victim was out of the hospital.

For those who are ready/healthy enough to leave the 5% increase for the movement and safety measures falls tragically short.

This bill also purposes to "Demilitarize community correction officers by limiting their ability to carry weapons".

Absolutely not! I believe the supporters of this bill are hoping to capitalize that police were made to be the villains last year. However, DV cases alone are the most dangerous ones that police officers respond to. If this bill's goal is to save lives then this is not the way to do it.

Some officers are taking a pay cut to leave Oregon due to issues and dangerous policies that essentially make them sit on their hands and/or put officers in more danger (Wallace, 2020).

I'm also concerned over what appears to be "double speak". The supporters of this bill highlight reform and healing for those incarcerated, yet they want to waive having offenders complete ordered treatment before being released from supervision.

This bill is an easy no for me. I'm not even sure if it can be revised enough for me to like it.

References

Bass, A. (Feb 24, 1992). "Women far less likely to kill than men; no one sure why."
The Boston Globe: p. 27.

Kajstura, A (2019). Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2019, retrieved from:

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2019women.html>

Wallace, D