



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

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Executive Board
Members*

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OACCD President,
Jackson County
Community Justice

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OACCD Past President,
Marion County
Community Corrections

*Committed To, And
Value, Offender
Reformation,
Services to Victims,
Crime Prevention,
And Community
Restoration*

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Chair Bynum and members of the Committee, my name is Eric Guyer and I am the Director of Jackson County Community Justice. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) and our opposition to House Bill 2002.

As our nation rightfully calls for justice and equity, it is important to assess and improve our own state Community Corrections departments. However, it is important to recognize that Community Corrections in Oregon serves as a national leader and model, engaging in policy and practices that surpass many jurisdictions in our evolution as a state committed to evidence based and core correctional practices. My goal for today's testimony is to demonstrate the progress we have made in Oregon as well as a commitment to be part of a much needed conversation on what changes should be made to move towards a less punitive community corrections system.

Oregon community correction departments have stayed true to assessing risk, responsivity, creating case plans and investing in services to meet the unique needs of those on our caseloads. Our concern with HB 2002 is that proposed changes do not seem to take into account some of the practices currently in place. National policy recommendations aspire to ensure that community corrections does not become a replacement for mass incarceration. Oregon is committed to this and has seen the number of citizens on probation drop by 22% from 2007 to 2019, and that number will shrink even further as we implement Measure 110. National reform movements call for a community corrections system that is less punitive. In Oregon we have seen a 48% reduction in the use of jail as a sanction from 2007 to 2019.

OACCD has been tracking and participating in national level reform discussions. Executives Transforming Probation (ExIT), a national group calling for probation and parole to be downsized, less punitive, and more hopeful, equitable and restorative, recommends establishing reasonable probation and parole terms that are not unnecessarily long (generally no longer than 18 months) and are measured by a balance of safety and an individual's goals. Oregon has reduced the average length of probation from 33 months in 2000 to 17 months in 2018, and it is our goal to do the same to Post-Prison Supervision by including EDIS for those cases as well. HB2002 currently does not utilize adequate measurements of safety or reinforcements for an individual achieving goals.

Additionally, portions of this bill that impact community corrections, while moving toward making probation smaller and less punitive, should also take into account that community corrections reform is not monolithic. That even within the State of Oregon each of the 36 counties responsible possesses unique characteristics and challenges. HB 2002 combines many diverse reforms in one bill without having



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community corrections professionals at the table together exploring the intended and unintended impacts.

We are supportive of the intent of HB 2002 to lead to needed reforms. However, our overall concerns are based in the wide range of proposed changes that will have unintended consequences. We welcome future conversations that will lead to well informed, evidence based reform.