



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Re: Senate Bill 720

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee, my name is Nathaline Frener, and I serve as Assistant Director of the Correctional Services Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here today to give testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 720.

What the Bill Does:

SB 720 directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to establish, in collaboration with DOC, the Family Preservation Project (FPP) pilot program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), with program administration by YWCA of Greater Portland. It further appropriates moneys for, and requires the CJC to perform, an analysis of the FPP and to biennially report analysis results to the Legislative Assembly beginning September 15, 2024.

Background Information and Impacts:

DOC is a strong proponent of connecting incarcerated parents with their children and has proactively increased the number and quality of those connections in the last 11 years. The FPP has been an important partner in those connections by providing services to incarcerated mothers and their families at CCCF's minimum-security facility. The department shares the FPP's goals outlined in the bill to increase protective factors and reduce the trauma experienced by children of incarcerated parents and increase successful re-entry from prison to healthy families.

If this legislation passes, we would like to clarify the expectations of DOC as detailed in Section 1 of the bill. It is our understanding, from previous communication with the YWCA of Greater Portland, all space requirements identified for the FPP in this bill will match the space CCCF currently provides for FPP services. This includes current use of office, classroom, and twice-monthly visiting spaces in the minimum-security prison (when in-person visiting is resumed).

We have clarified that, given the legislation's method to fund FPP through CJC, the YWCA of Greater Portland will not have a contract with DOC but will be considered a Partner Agency Contractor as defined in DOC policies on Non-Employee Service Providers. Section 1(5)(a) of the bill indicates they will be provided contractor training, identification, keys, and access to information technology and support. If this bill passes, we will provide these resources in accordance with DOC policies and standards and those of the federal Criminal Justice Information Systems standards, which have evolved since we first began partnering with FPP in 2010.

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Should this bill pass, all details can be further defined in a memorandum of understanding between the DOC and YWCA of Greater Portland and, as needed, in the Criminal Justice Commission's grant agreement.

We appreciate and recognize the passion for FPP and are pleased to see this support for incarcerated parents and their children. As mentioned in my opening, the goals of this program are shared by DOC, and we will be proactive partners in this effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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