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

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OACCD SUPPORTS HB 4146

The American Parole and Probation Association, the National Institute of Corrections and the Association of Justice Involved Females and Organizations have nationally recognized Oregon's gender-responsive services. Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors supports HB 4146 to continue to address the needs of incarcerated women in Oregon.

Approximately six years ago, Oregon adopted and implemented the Women's Risk Needs Assessment in institutions and community corrections, in acknowledgment of evidence that the pathway into the criminal justice system often differs between women and men. Women have higher rates of abuse and other trauma and higher need for self-efficacy, mental health treatment, housing and relationship supports. Women make up a smaller portion of the Oregon institution population, and Oregon can be proud that it only has one women's institution but this also poses additional difficulties for women in custody. Their families and children may have to travel further for visits to continue the parent child bond. 85 % of incarcerated women were the primary caregivers of minor children before incarceration and many are motivated to return to a parenting role after release.

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility along with the Oregon Case Management Network and Family Sentencing Alternatives Pilot Project counties worked in partnership in the development of a gender responsive curriculum to help women navigate the skills they need for success in custody and in reentry called "Pathways to Change." Oregon was the first state to implement this tool and received national attention for their commitment to address the unique challenges of our justice involved women as parents, individuals with fewer resources, higher rates of trauma and lower rates of education and employment than their male counterparts.

Oregon has accomplished much in their services and supervision of women and has set expectations high for expected outcomes. Adding a coordinator that can continue this momentum, incorporating the voices of lived experience and address some of the areas of need that have not yet been tackled is imperative to continue setting the national trend for best practices for justice involved women.

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