



February 13th, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

My name is Fritz Bachman, Director of Community Corrections for Wasco and Sherman counties. My testimony is regarding the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's budget. Our counties received grant funds from the Justice Reinvestment Grant.

When the Justice Reinvestment Grant was established, it dramatically changed the transitional housing landscape in our rural area. We were able to connect with Bridges To Change and the WINGS program to provide a residence for hundreds of justice involved individuals. The grant funds two houses (one for men and one for women and their children) as well as peer mentors and resident house managers. These programs' impact to recidivism have been immediate and clear: arrests went down and positive compliance went up. The lives of individuals on supervision were improved, and parents were reunified with their children and families.

While other State funding has developed to supports individuals with addictions, they do not target the needs of many justice-involved individuals in the same way. Some residents of the house are transitioning from prison, some are houseless with a history of property crimes, and all of them share case management with Community Corrections and benefit from active supervision. It has been an invaluable resource to provide support to downward departure cases, specialty courts, and to help people complete their supervision ahead of schedule. Additionally, our supplemental JRI funding support's Wasco County's Downward Departure Program which has allowed us to provide specialty supervision supports to dozens of individuals who have been diverted from prison, saving many years-worth of prison time.

Oregon's Measure 110 funding does not provide our justice system with the same supportive traction as what Justice Reinvestment has delivered. Losing this funding puts our local transitional housing programs and downward departure program at risk of being shut down. I respectfully hope that Justice Reinvestment funding is continued so that our local counties and many other similar programs across Oregon can continue to diminish recidivism rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of the Justice Reinvestment Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fritz Bachman".

Fritz Bachman
Wasco-Sherman Community Corrections Director