



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: John Teague, Keizer Police Chief
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police

Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 22, 2023

Re: SB 344- Testimony in support - Justice Reinvestment Grant Program Sunset Extension

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is John Teague. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Keizer, and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to testify in support of SB 344.

The CJC provides several important services to the State of Oregon, including data analysis, technical assistance and grants that are utilized by Oregon Public Safety agencies. We would like to begin by noting that the Criminal Justice Commission is respected by the wide range of stakeholders who care about our public safety system in Oregon.

As a part of their work, the Criminal Justice Commission manages some very important grant programs that are evidence-based and measured for outcomes to ensure that results justify your investment. The Governor's Recommended Budget included an increase in funding for Justice Reinvestment (JRI) over previous biennia which is very positive news. SB 344 extends the sunset for the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program until 2033. I would like to briefly cover a few highlights of what this funding has accomplished to illustrate the importance of continuing this effective program.

- The Justice Reinvestment grant program (JRI) funds prison diversion programming, focused on reducing prison usage while also reducing recidivism and keeping communities safe, for nonviolent offenses.
- JRI has saved the state at least \$634.5 million in state-costs avoided since the program began and provided local community justice systems about \$200 million.
- The grant program supports a variety of locally driven prison diversion options, including but not limited to pretrial release programming, community supervision, treatment

services and supports, and reentry services, such as peer mentoring and assistance with housing, education, and employment.

- JRI funds 192 positions, including probation and community supervision positions but also positions such as treatment service providers and specialty court judges across 33 counties.
- Participation in the JRI program has helped improve coordination, communication, and accountability discussions within local justice systems.
- JRI facilitates conversations about evidence-based practices among local leaders and stakeholders.
- JRI provides nearly \$5 million for victims' services providers in the 33 counties, which is particularly impactful in rural and frontier areas of the state that may only have only a few, or in five counties, only one, victims' services provider.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and we are happy to answer any questions the committee may have.