



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
From: Paul Solomon, Sponsors
Date: February 6, 2024
RE: Support for Senate bill 1560, Compassionate Medical Release

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,
On behalf of Sponsors, I write in support of Senate Bill 1560, Compassionate Medical Release.

Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services. To assist people to reenter their communities we offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, mental health services and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community.

Oregon's compassionate release laws recognize that it is in the best interest of our communities for incarcerated Oregonians to be released when, due to medical conditions, their continued incarceration is inhumane and no longer furthers the purposes of imprisonment. Oregon's Department of Corrections data shows that we also have an aging prison population with over 1,000 individuals over the age of 61, with that number projected to grow over the next several years.

Unfortunately, our current compassionate medical release law and process is ineffective and inconsistent. Specifically, it:

- The eligibility criteria are too narrow and not available to most AICs in need of compassionate release.
- The application process is unclear and inaccessible to most AICs.
- Review of requests is done by non-health professionals and can take a significant amount of time to complete.

Accordingly, we strongly support Compassionate Medical Release Reform, SB 1560, which will establish a legislative task force that researches and analyzes the matter of adults in custody who are aging, dying, and medically infirmed in prison, as well as the pitfalls of the current compassionate medical release process. It is our hope that the information gathered will lead to policies and procedures that help incarcerated Oregonians who are sick or dying have an opportunity to be safely and humanely released to get the care they need at home with their loved ones.

Passing SB 1560 would help move us toward a more modernized pathway for our state's compassionate medical release law.

Thank you,
Paul Solomon, senior advisor, Sponsors Inc.