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TAX ID # 93-0639815

To: Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety

From: Sponsors, Inc.

Submitted by Annie Herz, Executive Director

Date: February 13, 2025

Re: HB 5005, Criminal Justice Commission agency budget

Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of prisoner reentry services, operating in Lane County. We offer a broad range of services, including case management, employment assistance, housing, cognitive behavioral therapy, mental health services and mentoring. These are services that people need to be successful upon returning to their community. We are in support of HB 5005 and full funding of the Criminal Justice Commission, particularly the budget for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and the Restorative Justice Program funding.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative is a program that over the last 12 years, has prevented the need for a new prison and invested \$200M in local services across Oregon while generating \$635 million in avoided costs. Sponsors supported the program's creation in 2013 and we have remained active in supporting its continued funding.

In 2021, Sponsors also supported a Governor's Racial Justice Council funding request for a Restorative Justice grant program run through the CJC. Restorative Justice is a concept that centers victims in creating the outcomes that work best for them when harm is caused. We are thrilled to see this program funded in Oregon and support the \$4 million allocated in the Governor's budget.

We also support POP 550BH, which calls for \$40M to support the Oregon Behavioral Health Deflection Grant. However, we believe this should be funded at the \$50M level that was included in the ARB that set the floor at \$500,000 for small counties.

In addition, we are pleased to see that the Governor's recommended budget includes investments for the following critical programs:

- POP 551BH, which would provide \$15M to support the Oregon Jail-Based Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Grant

- POP 090, which would provide \$10M to support the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program
- POP 100, 101, and 102, which would provide critical ongoing funding and/or position authority for seven positions at CJC

Sponsors continues to be impressed with Director Sanchagrin and the CJsCs ongoing commitment to providing sound data and research that contributes to solutions to our state's public safety challenges. For these reasons, and those outlined above, we fully support the investments in HB 5005.

Sincerely,



Annie Herz
Executive Director