



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 16, 2025

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 2555

Chair Kropf and members of the committee, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to provide neutral testimony on HB 2555.

What the Bill Does:

The purpose of this bill is to ensure the continuation of the Family Sentencing Alternative Program. Over the past 10 years, DOC has overseen this program and worked in collaboration with 5 counties to create an opportunity to prevent single custodial parents and guardians from going to prison for certain crimes, and instead, serve a period of probation with intensive supervision and supportive services from community corrections and human services. The outcome over the last 10 years has been promising: more than 300 participants with more than 600 children benefiting from services such as A&D treatment, behavioral health services, parenting classes, permanent housing, and family reunification. With a substantially lower recidivism rate than that of single parents who went to prison and shorter durations of foster care for their children, this program has shown positive outcomes for participants overall.

Impact of the Bill:

This bill would eliminate the sunset of June 30, 2025, thus allowing for the program to continue forward. In addition, it would expand eligibility by not excluding those who have person to person criminal histories, and it would allow for a participant to remain in the program for the entire duration of their supervision, not just one year.

There are still some technical issues to be worked out, so DOC is continuing to work with the coalition behind this bill and the impacted partners such as the District Attorneys and Community Corrections offices to ensure the language around culturally specific programming and any expansion of who is a primary caregiver is feasible and aligned with the program's values and the participants best chance at success.

Thank you for your time and happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections
Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director for Community Corrections
Jeremiah.P.Stromberg@doc.oregon.gov
Phone: (503) 983-1441