

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

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*Providing leadership,
advocacy, and
support services to
Community
Corrections agencies
so they can positively
impact clients,
victims, and the safety
and livability of our
communities.*

www.oaccd.net

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair
The Honorable Willy Chotzen, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Kim Wallan, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street Northeast
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Oregon House Bill 2555

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan and members of the House Judiciary Committee, for the record, my name is Jeff Wood, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). OACCD represents all Oregon community corrections agencies, with a mission to positively impact clients, victims, and enhance the safety and livability of our communities.

As you all know, House Bill 2555, proposes to rename the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program to the Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP), as well as remove the sunset of the program. The bill also seeks to modify eligibility requirements and mandate specific services.

As is currently written, OACCD is not in support of HB 2555. To be clear, OACCD strongly supports FSAP and has been involved in the program from the beginning - almost ten years ago through House Bill 3503 (2015). We've seen the positive impacts of diverting eligible parents who would otherwise be incarcerated and offering intensive supervision and community-based services, supports, and participation in specialized parenting programs. The outcome over the last 10 years has been promising: more than 300 participants with more than 600 children. Overall, OACCD believes FSAP has succeeded with the stated goals of family reunification, prevention of children entering the foster system, and recidivism reduction as evidenced by a 14% decrease in recidivism when compared to a "like" population.

As is currently written, OACCD does not support the definition of "Caretaker" (Page 2, Line 32), which is defined as **"an individual who is responsible for the care, control and supervision of a child regardless of biological or legal relationship."** OACCD believes this term is overly broad and moves away from focusing on individuals who have a legal obligation to care for a child. Additionally, we believe it will be difficult to determine in a court setting as to a defendant's eligibility for the program. We believe this language should remain as is, or as outlined in the Caregiver Relationship as defined by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 419B.116, or as currently proposed in Senate Bill 972.

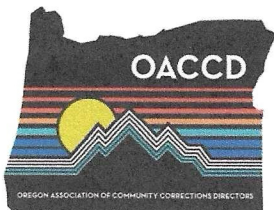
Additionally, OACCD does not support the "must" language regarding culturally specific services and programming (Page 2, Line 30-31). We are concerned this requirement may exclude some participating counties and future expansion, as culturally specific services may not be available in every county or may not be approved as required by Senate Bill 267 (2003), ORS 181.620, and ORS 181.637. We believe the current Oregon Administrative Rules (See OAR 291-78-0005) already reflect this as a program goal and provide flexibility necessary for the positive program outcomes we've seen over the years.

Our hope is we can address these issues and will continue to work with the coalition behind this bill and the impacted partners such as the Department of Corrections, District Attorneys, and our OACCD membership to ensure language that is feasible and aligned with the program's values and the participants best chance at success.

Finally, OACCD would be remiss as an organization to not emphasize the need for a fully funded community corrections system to ensure the continued success of FSAP. Like Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a robust FSAP requires a solid financial foundation by way of community corrections baseline funding. According to the Oregon Department of Corrections' recent Actual Cost Study, baseline funding at \$18.18 per client per day is necessary to maintain current services and a successful FSAP collaboration.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving Oregon's justice system. We appreciate your consideration of this important legislation and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to enhance community corrections and public safety.

For further information, please contact:



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