



February 19, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2555

Dear Chair Kropf, Co-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and advancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 41,000 members and donor supporters statewide.

We strongly support House Bill 2555, which would expand and make the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program (FSAP) a permanent program.

The criminal justice system does not treat everyone equally and too often incarceration disrupts families and communities in ways that do more harm than good. The ACLU of Oregon supports **proven solutions that address root causes of crime** and create **fair, orderly and humane outcomes** for families and communities. Programs like FSAP, offer a practical approach to justice— one that holds individuals accountable while recognizing that keeping families together leads to better long-term results. Expanding this program is a **common-sense** step towards a legal system that prioritizes **public safety, stability and fairness** for all Oregonians.

All Oregonians want safe, healthy, and thriving communities. Over the past decade, the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program has contributed to this goal by keeping nearly **300 families together, while ensuring accountability for harm.** Keeping families together, when safe and appropriate, reduces recidivism, improves outcomes for children, and ultimately creates safer and healthier communities.

FSAP helps prevent unnecessary family separation by allowing primary caregivers to serve probationary sentences instead of incarceration. While under supervision, participants receive critical services like housing support, treatment, and other services that enable them to take responsibility for their actions while continuing to care for their children. When more caretakers have access to the support they need, Oregon's kids are more stable, healthy, and secure. This program offers families a life-changing opportunity to grow and stay together.

By passing House Bill 2555 the legislature has an opportunity to strengthen families, reduce reliance on foster care, and support a program that has already demonstrated success. **The ACLU of Oregon urges your support for House Bill 2555 and respectfully requests that you pass it out of committee.**

Respectfully,

Kennedy Parish, Communication & Storytelling Associate

For more questions, please email Jessica Maravilla, Policy Director at jmaravilla@aclu-or.org