



House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
RE: Support for HB 2972

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and members of the Committee,

Located in Portland, Oregon, Central City Concern (CCC) provides a comprehensive continuum of affordable housing options integrated with direct social services, including health care, recovery, and employment. In 2024, CCC helped 15,991 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with affordable and supportive housing, integrated health services, addiction recovery, and employment assistance.

At CCC's Employment Access Center (EAC), our team supports clients referred to our services in overcoming barriers to employment. One of the most common barriers we assist our population of clients with is criminal background. In 2024, over a quarter of all referrals received by CCC's employment services came from housing or community programs that serve the reentry population. Having the resources to help these individuals—many of whom have not worked for some time—build confidence and a career plan that considers their background is a critical component of their reintegration into society.

Providing individualized employment services to clients in this population, along with financial supports that reduce their barriers to obtaining training or employment, is key to reducing recidivism and getting Oregon businesses talented employees to support industry growth in our region.

We support the expansion of the WorkSource Oregon Reentry Program, as engaging individual's prerelease in these services has a proven track record of increasing their participation in employment services once they are out of incarceration. One of our biggest challenges is keeping people engaged in our services. The clients we have the most success with are those who have multiple supports educating them about available resources, connecting them with services, and championing their success along the way.

We urge your support for HB 2972 and for continued investment in workforce reentry programs that give all Oregonians a fair chance at economic stability.

Sincerely,

Chase Bissett, Director of Employment, [EAC](#)
Billy Anfield, Advocacy Coordinator & Lead, [Flip the Script Reentry Program](#)