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**TAX ID # 93-0639815**

Support for HB 3825  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Submitted by Annie Herz, Executive Director  
March 12, 2025

Chair Kropf,  
Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of prisoner reentry services, operating in Lane County. We offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, cognitive behavioral therapy, mental health services, and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community. We write in support of HB 3825, a bill that would shorten the period for fines and fees on criminal judgments from 20 years to 10 years for felonies and from 10 years to 5 years for misdemeanors.

As an organization that serves over 1,000 people a year with criminal convictions in Lane County, we understand the many ways that fines and fees create barriers and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

- Old fines and fees can be a significant barrier to expungement, which is crucial for individuals seeking better job opportunities and higher earnings. Without the ability to clear their record, individuals are frequently blocked from stable employment and housing, further entrenching them in financial insecurity
- Far too many people with conviction histories in Oregon live at or below the poverty line. Carrying the burden of old fines and fees makes it more difficult for individuals to meet basic living expenses such as rent, utilities, and food. By reducing the timeframe for these obligations, HB 3825 will ease the financial strain on individuals who are already struggling to make ends meet.
- Additionally, these prolonged financial obligations often result in damaged credit scores, making it harder for individuals to access housing or secure loans. Shortening the timeframe for these obligations to expire will allow people to rebuild their financial standing and gain greater stability.

- Finally, the burden of tracking and enforcing decades-old fines and fees places unnecessary strain on court resources. HB 3825 offers a pragmatic solution by streamlining the system and focusing resources on higher-impact priorities.

Reducing the period for fines and fees not only acknowledges the challenges faced by justice-involved individuals but also aligns with evidence-based practices that support successful reintegration. By passing HB 3825, Oregon can reduce barriers to stability, increase public safety, and create a more just and equitable system.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 3825.

Sincerely,  
Annie Herz  
Executive Director  
Sponsors, Inc.