



Crook County

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March 12, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill 5004

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 5004 on behalf of Crook County, where the need for adequate grant-in-aid funding to maintain and enhance our corrections system is critical. As we approach the fiscal year 2025-2026, it is imperative that we address the financial challenges our county faces to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

Currently, Crook County is anticipating a budget deficit of \$250,000. This financial strain has compelled us to make difficult decisions, including the elimination of a crucial position within our corrections framework. Without sufficient state grant-in-aid funding, our ability to effectively operate and provide essential services is significantly compromised.

House Bill 5004 proposes funding the cost study at the actual expense of \$18.18 per unit, which accurately reflects the ongoing efforts and expenditures of our county. By fully funding this study, the bill facilitates a greater investment in critical areas such as offender accountability, mental health services, drug treatment programs, and other vital community support services.

The passage of House Bill 5004 would not only alleviate financial burdens but also enhance our capacity to administer justice and rehabilitation in a manner that upholds public safety and community welfare.

We urge your support for this important legislation, which is pivotal in our continued commitment to keeping our streets and neighborhoods safe. Thank you for considering this vital funding that supports the well-being of Crook County and its residents.

Sincerely,

Susan Hermreck
County Commissioner

Brian Barney
County Commissioner

Seth Crawford
County Commissioner