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*Committed To, And
Value, Offender
Reformation,
Services to Victims,
Crime Prevention,
And Community
Restoration*

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March 13, 2025

Good morning, Co-Chairs Evans, Broadman and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Nate Gairan, President of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors and the Director of Washington County Community Corrections. I am here to advocate for the full funding of the actual cost study for community corrections that was conducted by the Department of Corrections and what Jeremiah Stromberg presented before you yesterday.

It is worth noting the House Judiciary Committee started a workgroup in September of 2023 to review the funding formula and the governance of community corrections. The work group was made up of all the statewide community partners including the Department of Corrections, Criminal Justice Commission, Association of Oregon Counties, Board of Parole, Community Corrections, Sheriff's Association, and others. The group met throughout the calendar year of 2024 and concluded the funding formula is not necessarily broken and recommended to maintain the current funding formula. The group recognized what was broken was the lack of funding for the actual cost study that drives the daily rate for the funding formula. The actual cost study is conducted every six years statutorily by the Department of Corrections and the latest one was done in 2024.

The current capitated rate in this biennium we are funded at is just over \$13.83 when the actual cost to do the work is \$18.18. The capitated rate used in the Governor's Recommended Budget is \$15.09 plus 20 million to account for only partial funding of the actual cost study which significantly under funds community corrections.

We are still waiting for the April Forecast which will give us a better understanding of what the amount will be for funding community corrections, but if we use the latest forecast available to us, local community corrections agencies need approximately 380 million for current service level.

The populations we supervise have become increasingly challenging to manage with limited support and funding. We have seen a significant reduction in prison utilization which means an increase pressure on our industry to deliver effective services to keep them out of prison. The behavioral health complexities, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, increases in violence and other acuity factors within our populations make this funding request even more important. Of note, funding the actual cost study only gives us the ability to deliver current services and does not necessarily support other efforts that might be innovative or creative.

The more you invest in Community Corrections, the better outcomes we can achieve and the safer our communities will be.

I urge you to fully fund the actual cost study presented by the Department of Corrections.