

Submitter: Michaela Hammerson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2250

Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I respectfully oppose Proposal 2250 due to its potential to distort representation, favor one institution, and misuse public funds.

First, counting prisoners at their pre-incarceration addresses undermines accurate redistricting. Rural counties like Umatilla bear the burden of housing inmates—funding prisons, staffing facilities, and managing local impacts. Yet this bill shifts their population count to urban areas where they no longer live, potentially boosting representation in those districts. This could tilt political power unfairly, resembling gerrymandering, and overlooks the principle that people should be counted where they reside today.

Second, naming Portland State University's Population Research Center as the sole processor of Department of Corrections data locks in an advantage for one school. Without justification for excluding other capable entities, this choice appears biased and restricts open competition.

Finally, directing taxpayer money to gather and analyze data through unelected PSU and DOC officials lacks proper accountability. Public funds should back a process controlled by elected representatives, not handed to administrators outside voter oversight.

I urge you to vote no on Proposal 2250 to protect fair representation and responsible spending.

Thank you,

Michaela Hammerson