Submitter: Phoenix Oaks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1120

I strongly urge you to pass SB 1120 because our taxpayer dollars should never be used to fund human rights abuses against anyone. We must stop the practice of imprisoning people convicted of crimes in dehumanizing facilities that only do further harm to all: the incarcerated people, their families including children, society as a whole, and taxpayers. People in prisons like Coffee Creek Correctional Facility are routinely abused, retaliated and discriminated against, subjected to violence and abhorrent living conditions, and deprived of physical and mental health services they need. Putting anyone in such prisons is cruel and unusual punishment. Cruelty should never be used as discipline.

It is past time that we stop the unconstitutional practice of subjecting prisoners to cruel conditions. Instead, we need to rehabilitate people and improve their lives whenever possible. We need to not only improve living conditions so that people have regular, safe food, sleep, and hygiene facilities and supplies, but also provide access to courts, domestic and sexual abuse resources for survivors, physical and mental healthcare, recovery programs, support for parents and families, job training, education, and access to libraries to all in custody. Many facilities where people are incarcerated in Europe, notably Norwegian facilities, are like this.

The Oregon Justice Resource Center has released a report stating that the Oregon Department of Corrections should not be sentencing humans to the abhorrent conditions in prisons like Coffee Creek. It raises " serious concerns about the treatment and well-being of people in all of ODOC's prisons" and states, "We are left with the unmistakable conclusion that Oregon's prisons are not safe for humans." You can read the report here: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/524b5617e4b0b106ced5f067/t/6567ce61f333c 240b031f223/1701301857944/2023+GIPA_response+v.23.11.28.pdf

Thank you for your consideration.