

Submitter:

Judith Wild

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1120

There has been plenty of solid research coming out over the past ten years to verify that the way in which the Dept of Corrections has failed to keep up with proven procedures to prevent recidivism and therefore save money in the future. This includes providing adequate mental health services and drug treatment programs. One woman I heard from said that she asked for drug treatment but had to wait 18 months!

We tend to forget that incarcerating women affects a broader swath of Oregon citizens: their children and the family members who have to care for them. We take traumatized women and then traumatize their children by the stingy ways in which we handle visitation and phone calls. All of this could be considered cruel and unusual punishment. Most prisoners are convicted of non-violent crimes. This is especially true for women.

Let's start the process of moving from a system based on retribution to one based on humane practices that help them to change their lives.