



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 21, 2025

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Senate Bill 1120

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee, my name is Harvey Mathews, and I serve as Legislative Manager for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am providing written testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 1120.

What the Bill Does:

SB 1120 would require DOC to implement a list of policies for adults in custody, including policies related to gender-responsive, evidence-based and trauma-informed practices at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF).

Background and Impacts:

In 2019, with the partnership of external partners, DOC requested funding to conduct a comprehensive Gender Informed Practices Assessment (GIPA). After it was funded in 2022, the resulting 2023 GIPA gave DOC a baseline measure of how closely agency policies and practices align with prevailing research on gender-informed approaches. GIPA evaluated DOC's adherence to gender-responsive, trauma-informed, and evidence-based policies across 12 domains, aiming to ensure consistent implementation from admission to release.

As part of the GIPA strategic plan, an innovative Steering Committee was formed to assess recommendations for changes and improvements at CCCF. This committee, comprised of the Deputy Director, Superintendent, and two incarcerated women, ensured a collaborative and inclusive approach to reform. By incorporating the lived experiences of those directly impacted, alongside operational expertise, the committee was able to critically evaluate GIPA findings and prioritize initiatives that enhance safety, equity, and rehabilitative opportunities for women in custody.

The Steering Committee identified five key focus areas for CCCF improvements:

1. Improving policies and procedures related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA),
2. Staffing, training, and facility culture,
3. Reentry and release,
4. Gender-responsive and trauma-informed operations, and
5. Medical services.

Based on these five key areas, the 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) includes a Policy Option Package (POP) to support the ongoing GIPA work at CCCF. These strategic investments will help ensure CCCF continues to implement the recommendations from GIPA, improving outcomes for incarcerated individuals and staff alike:

- Operations - \$3.75M
 - GIPA Manager, Admin Specialist, Sexual Assault Liaison, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Compliance Manager, Policy Analyst, Life Skills Coordinator, Community Liaison.
 - Three additional body scanners.
 - Expand Center for Hope and Safety Contract.
 - Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) Journals.
 - PCC Legal Resources.
 - Staffing Needs Analysis and staff training.
- Central Admin - \$1M
 - Three Inspector positions.
- Health Services - \$400,000
 - Pregnancy Coordinator.
- Correctional Services - \$1.7M
 - Correctional Counselor, two Low-Automated Criminal Risk Score (ACRS) Case Aides, Family Advocate, Housing Coordinator.

The work to narrow down the many recommendations in the original GIPA report to this short list of implementable and impactful investments reflects hundreds of hours of work by DOC leadership, Governor's Office staff, Coffee Creek Correctional Institution's adults in custody and staff, and many stakeholder groups, including the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC).

DOC was among the first in the nation to adopt gender-responsive approaches for women. We have invested in meaningful programs at CCCF, implemented training on gender-responsive practices, and championed an evidence-based needs assessment tool. While all of the recommendations in the GIPA have not been implemented yet, the work is well underway with positive results outlined on our website here: <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/research-and-requests/Pages/Gender-Informed-Practices-Assessment.aspx>.

The GIPA policy option package in the Governor's Recommended Budget is a fiscally responsible way to support the collaboration underway and honor a thoughtful process that has received input from numerous stakeholders, including the women incarcerated at CCCF. We invite you to visit Coffee Creek to see the progress for yourself. It is a place of healing, hard work, and hope with a staff dedicated to the women in their care.

Submitted by:

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