

Submitter: Margaret Gunther
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB293

Hello,

My nephew was born in Coffee Creek Women's facility. While his mother was in labor, she was shackled to a gurney. We can, and must do better.

Oregon Department of Corrections can stabilize and help AICs with substance abuse disorder by expanding access to Medication for Substance Abuse Disorder and medical treatment Opioid use disorder.

Far too many illegal drugs are making their way into the system, and Corrections Officers either look the other way, or profit from this trade within the prison walls. I have direct testimony from a formerly incarcerated person that this has been going on for years. Releasing men and women from prison who are active in their addiction almost guarantees their return.

The provision of good medical care within prisons is a right, not a privilege, and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care requires it, and monitors it. Better regulation of health care in prisons is an absolute necessity.

Please support this bill in the interest of make our carceral system more humane, compassionate and safe for those in state custody.

Margaret Gunther