

Submitter:

Ethel Gullette

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB293

SB 293-1 will improve medical care for Oregonians in the custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections and have a positive impact on the health and welfare of our communities. Adults in custody face unique health challenges in prison due to the punitive staff culture, limited access to healthcare, poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and an overall harsh living environment. Incarcerated individuals often come from marginalized backgrounds with pre-existing health conditions that can worsen due to inadequate medical care and unhealthy prison conditions. Ensuring that adults in custody receive appropriate and comprehensive medical care is not just a moral and legal obligation but also a sensible step toward reducing recidivism and promoting a healthier society, as more than 95% of incarcerated people will eventually return to our broader communities. We must begin to meaningfully address Oregon's prison healthcare deficiencies. We need legislators to step in to require ODOC provide adequate health care. There's a huge amount to do to bring Oregon prison healthcare up to scratch. Right now, we have a place to start by passing SB 293-1.