



Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
March 27, 2025
RE: Senate Bill 293-1

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

Located in Portland, Oregon, Central City Concern (CCC) provides a comprehensive continuum of affordable housing options integrated with direct social services, including health care, recovery, and employment. In 2024, CCC served 15,991 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Flip the Script (FTS) is a culturally specific program of CCC, designed to serve Black/African American men and women exiting incarceration. Our purpose is to help our clients rewrite their story with a vision of empowerment and success, rather than hopelessness and a return to prison.

We strongly support SB 293-1 because adequate healthcare access is a fundamental human right that is routinely denied to individuals in custody. Alarming healthcare disparities, including delays in treatment, insufficient management of chronic diseases, and inconsistent documentation of care, are widespread within correctional facilities in Oregon. These disturbing cases of neglect within correctional facilities have led to preventable deaths directly linked to delays in medical treatment and failure to address urgent healthcare needs. These tragic incidents underscore the dangerous and systemic deficiencies in our corrections healthcare system.

National research underscores these troubling trends. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, incarcerated individuals are significantly more likely to suffer from chronic conditions compared to the general population yet receive markedly inferior medical care. A recent Bureau of Justice Statistics report indicated that 40% of incarcerated individuals have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. Despite this, healthcare denials and treatment delays are common.

We thank the legislature for their critical work in advancing healthcare access in prison through the expansion of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) through House Bill 4002 last session. While this will allow for improved access to treatment for substance use disorders before release and help protect those existing the system who are at the highest risk of overdose and unintentional injury, SB 293 –1 will provide a much-needed addition to the system of care.

By passing SB 293-1, Oregon would set a meaningful precedent in prioritizing human dignity and public health. We urge your strong support of this essential bill to ensure that all individuals, regardless of incarceration status, have equitable access to necessary healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to justice.



**CENTRAL CITY
CONCERN**

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

Respectfully,

Billy Anfield

Advocacy Coordinator, Flip the Script

Dr. Andrew Mendenhall, MD, DABFM, DABPM, FASAM

President and CEO, Central City Concern