



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff

Proudly Serving Our Community

Statement for Budget Committee Regarding HB 5005 -Testimony in Support

Deputy Neil Marchington, Deflection Program Coordinator

4/3/2025

Good morning. I am Deputy Neil Marchington, Deflection Coordinator for the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff van der Kamp and I would like to thank the committee for considering this important proposal on Deflection funding and share some of the impacts this new program is having in Deschutes County. I've been a Deputy Sheriff in Deschutes County for over 17 years and have specialized in programs to reduce incarceration and help our citizens in need over the last 6 years.

Our local Deflection Program is a strong partnership between multiple local agencies, medical providers, and the treatment community. We center our program success on engagement in medically appropriate treatment and include wrap-around peer support services concentrated on improving social determinant of health factors. We started operations on September 1, 2024, and were deflecting people within a few days.

As an early adopter county, we have seen many positive impacts.

Multiple successful patients have completed drug treatment. Patients have gained housing, employment and many other needs through the assistance of the Deflection program. Two patients have regained full custody of children from DHS. Most successful patients have had no arrests post Deflection. We are seeing positive impacts in reducing incarceration here as well. Many patients are seeing how fast life gets better once in recovery.

We have found that many of the patients in the program have a high level of justice involvement. 76% of people contacted for PCS-U here since 9/11 had other charges or cases open at arrest. We've been working with many of these patients on solutions which result in better outcomes for them and our community.

Deflection has provided a tool for rapid access to services and treatment. We are still developing and expanding our program to include many pathways to help people. We appreciate the



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committee's continued funding and support for Deflection, and support funding the CJC budget in full.

Deputy Neil Marchington

Deflection Program Coordinator

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office



