

April 1, 2025

Senator Anthony Broadman

Representative Paul Evans

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

RE: Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's 2025-2027 biannual budget

Dear Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, Members of the Committee:

As the Deflection Coordinator for Jackson County, I urge you to uphold the intent and spirit of Measure 110 reforms and support ongoing investment in Deflection programs. It's never been more important for our leaders to prioritize the health, safety, and stability for our communities.

With continued threats from the federal government creating uncertainty, it's essential that Oregon continue to make targeted investments in up-stream programs that provide opportunities for individuals with Substance Use Disorder to receive necessary treatment and break the bonds of cyclical criminal-legal system involvement. HB 4002 created Deflection as a new pathway to treatment for individuals struggling at the intersection of behavioral health concerns and justice system involvement and ongoing funding is the only way to determine the value and efficacy of this strategy.

The Jackson County program has been operational for six months, and while the numbers may not be as high as anticipated, they are still encouraging. Average enrollment is currently 12 people per month with nearly 50% of those completing the program. While this is great news, the real success lies in the seeds of peer relationships and treatment exposures that are sown during the program. These experiences offer participants the opportunity to learn about the pathways to recovery and meet with people who understand their struggles and have the experience to support them as they take initial steps on their personal journeys to recovery.

I implore you to honor the work embodied in HB 4002 and support the Criminal Justice Commission by funding, in full, the Behavioral Health Deflection grant for the 2025-2027 biennium. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Vicky Armstrong, BS, MA

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