

Support for HB 5005

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Subcommittee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's budget (HB 5005). As Chair of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), I have seen firsthand the critical role this agency plays in promoting evidence-based policies, funding transformative programs, and ensuring data-driven decision-making across Oregon's criminal justice system. The CJC's work is essential to improving public safety outcomes and advancing equity in our state.

The CJC administers many grant programs that directly impact communities across Oregon, including:

- **Justice Reinvestment:** Reduces prison use while reinvesting in local services that improve safety, including alternatives to incarceration and victim services.
- **Adult Specialty Courts:** Provides treatment-focused alternatives, such as drug and mental health courts, that address root causes of criminal behavior and reduce recidivism.
- **Restorative Justice:** Supports programs that prioritize healing and accountability, offering meaningful alternatives to traditional punitive measures.
- **Justice Reinvestment Equity Program:** Directs resources to communities disproportionately impacted by the justice system, funding culturally responsive services.
- **Behavioral Health Deflection Program:** Helps divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders away from incarceration and into appropriate treatment.

Beyond its grant programs, the CJC serves as Oregon's central repository for criminal justice data and analysis. The agency's research and evaluation efforts provide policymakers with the information needed to make evidence-based decisions. By analyzing trends in crime, sentencing, recidivism, and program effectiveness, the CJC helps ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent on strategies that truly enhance public safety and promote justice.

I also want to express my strong support for the CJC's Director, Ken Sanchagrin, and the agency's dedicated staff. Their expertise, commitment, and tireless work make it possible for the CJC to carry out its mission effectively. Their efforts in managing grants, conducting research, and supporting community-driven solutions are invaluable to Oregon's criminal justice system. Investing in the CJC through HB 5005 is an investment in smart, data-driven policy and community-centered solutions. I urge you to fully fund the agency so that it can continue its vital work in reducing incarceration, addressing inequities, and improving the efficiency of our criminal/legal system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge your support for HB 5005.

Sincerely,

Paul Solomon
Chair, Oregon Criminal Justice Commission