



## Juvenile Community Justice and Adult Parole & Probation

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April 1, 2025

The Honorable Senator Anthony Broadman  
The Honorable Representative Paul Evans  
Co-Chairs Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

Subject: Letter of Support for the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and House Bill 5005

Deschutes County Community Justice wishes to express support for the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and HB 5005. We have worked closely with the CJC's grant administration division, research division, and leadership team over the years to fulfill a variety of state policy and programmatic aims, most significantly the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), funding for which is included in HB 5005.

Since 2015 Deschutes County has fulfilled the JRI mission: prison usage is down 48% from our baseline numbers, without detriment to public safety. Together with the District Attorney, Behavioral Health and our many community partners, JRI support allows us to appropriately identify and support the right people to supervise locally in lieu of prison.

JRI has fundamentally shifted the way public safety is envisioned in our county. It has demonstrated that most justice-involved people can be safely supervised and supported through the justice system while remaining in the community - employed, with family members, close to kin and community. Working with Parole & Probation staff, individuals receive an appropriate blend of support and accountability, and significant support to remove health and wellness, financial, skill, and structured barriers to their success. JRI has assisted our county with understanding the different pathways into the justice system that our diverse community experiences, and how to tailor our response and support in a way that respects each person and provides the support and accountability to be successful. I am hopeful that through full funding of community corrections at its actual cost of \$18.18 per day per individual, and continuation of JRI funding, my county can continue to support the Oregon goal of a person-centered, effective public safety continuum.

Finally, I urge you to expand funding through policy option package 550BH to support among other necessary programs the continuation of deflection activities and the Impacts grant program which offers crucial support to the Deschutes County Stabilization Center to support individuals in crisis and decriminalize behavioral health crises, and which has accordingly shown positive impact on recidivism.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deevy Holcomb".

Deevy Holcomb, Director