



April 1, 2025

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 5005 – Submitted by the Washington County Public Safety Coordinating Council (WCPSCC)

Dear Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Washington County Public Safety Coordinating Council (WCPSCC), thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for House Bill 5005 and continued investment in the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

The WCPSCC is a statutorily mandated cross-sector coalition that brings together law enforcement, judicial leaders, behavioral health providers, victim advocates, county officials, and community-based organizations. Together, we coordinate, and support strategies aimed at reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for individuals involved in the justice system. The funding in HB 5005 is essential to maintaining the impact of evidence-based, community-centered programs.

In Washington County, we rely on CJC's support for:

- Justice Reinvestment Programs (JRP) that divert individuals from incarcerations and prioritize treatment and accountability.
- Specialty courts and deflection programs that address behavioral health and substance use disorders.
- Research and technical assistance that help align local strategies with measurable results.

Local Program Impact

Washington County offers three specialty court options for non-violent offenders:

- Adult Recovery Court (ARC) has graduated 243 participants since 2005, deferring over 466 years in prison time and saving Oregon taxpayers an estimated \$14 million. Graduates show lower recidivism and higher restitution repayment.
- Integrative Reentry Intensive Supervision Services (IRISS), supported by JRP, maintains a 91.5% success rate (2021-2024). Participants receive treatment and enhanced supervision instead of prison.
- Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP) helps parents avoid incarceration to keep families unified. It has a 97% long-term success rate, with a 100% success rate over the last three years.

Our Community Corrections team also developed a culturally responsive Afrocentric Caseload, creating a voluntary supervision option designed to better serve African American clients under community supervision.

Through the Oregon Drug Intervention Plan, Washington County has implemented multiple pre- and post-court diversion pathways that connect individuals with treatment and provide alternatives to incarceration under HB 4002 and HB 5204.

These programs reduce incarceration, improve equity, and make our communities safer – but they rely on stable and sufficient funding.

The Need for Full Funding

To maintain progress, we urge the Legislature to fully fund Community Corrections baseline services. Community Corrections are foundational to the success of the JRP, yet current funding falls below actual costs identified by the Department of Corrections. Underfunding threatens both outcomes and sustainability.

HB 5005 is more than a funding bill – it’s a commitment to smarter justice, safer communities, and a more equitable Oregon. We urge your support and thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Melissa Laird
Washington County Public Safety Coordinating Council, Chair



Deanna Palm
Washington County Public Safety Coordinating Council, Vice-Chair