

April 3, 2025

Co-Chairs Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Senator Girod, Representative Gomberg, Representative Smith, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Hoover, and I am providing written testimony on my own behalf in support of the elements of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's budget as represented in HB 5005 – especially the behavioral health deflection and jail-medication for opioid use disorder grant programs. I am an addiction medicine physician at OHSU, and I have the privilege to assist the CJC as a technical assistance provider supporting their Behavioral Health Deflection and jail-medication for opioid use disorder grantees, and as a grant review committee member for the jail-medication for opioid use disorder grant program.

The CJC quickly earned my trust and support. I am impressed that Director Sanchagrin and CJC staff have built the necessary trust and partnerships across the state to administer grant programs that bridge the behavioral health and justice systems. That is no small feat. At the recent 2025 CJC Summit at the Salem Convention Center, I witnessed a powerful gathering of leaders in behavioral health and justice systems. Although I've attended dozens of local behavioral health and medical conferences, I have never seen such a diverse group collaborating this effectively together. This is exactly the environment we need to change systems for the better.

The CJC excels at providing structure for grantee accountability, while also supporting the needs of grantees. I observed how CJC staff administered the jail-medication for opioid use disorder grant, and was impressed how this grant could be accessible for small rural jails, where all grant tasks fall onto the jail commander. Without a supportive, accessible grant application and staff team, these grants would feel unapproachable by rural counties. CJC is proactive and thorough with information sharing regarding their grant application, grant review, and progress reporting process. This clear communication is the foundation of good grantmaker-grantee relationships, and helps explain the trust that grantees have with CJC.

Finally, the CJC encourages data-driven systems improvements. The CJC has authored dozens of research and evaluation reports that help to guide the future direction for criminal justice work in Oregon. Without these reports, Oregon would have a poor understanding of its own justice system, and be hamstrung in efforts to improve this system. The evaluation work of CJC also provides context for CJC's grantmaking work; when CJC requests data from grantees, CJC knows exactly what to request and how to use the data to evaluate initiatives at a state level.

Funding the continued work of CJC and CJC grants is essential to improving our criminal justice system in Oregon and saving criminal justice costs over the long term while also improving public safety and public health. Maintaining momentum for the behavioral health deflection and jail medication for opioid use disorder grants is critical at this juncture. I urge you to support HB 5005.

Sincerely,

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