



KLAMATH COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

April 4th, 2025

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Robert Fenner
Klamath County Community Corrections
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Co-Chair Broadman and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means subcommittee of Public Safety:

I am writing to express my support for the continued investment in Oregon's deflection program and to urge the Legislature to allocate the necessary funding to meet the final statewide cost projections. As you know, deflection programs provide critical alternatives to incarceration by redirecting individuals with substance use disorders and behavioral health needs toward treatment and community-based resources rather than the criminal justice system.

The final statewide funding needed to fully implement this initiative is essential to ensuring that local jurisdictions and tribal communities have the resources required to sustain and expand deflection efforts. In particular, the designated county and tribal set-aside of \$46.9 million is a crucial component of this funding, recognizing the unique needs and sovereignty of Oregon's tribal nations in implementing culturally appropriate deflection strategies.

By fully funding the program, Oregon can continue making meaningful strides in reducing unnecessary incarceration, improving public safety, and enhancing access to vital services for those in crisis. I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to prioritize this investment in the upcoming budget decisions.

Thank you for your time and commitment to advancing effective public safety and health solutions. I appreciate your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert Fenner
Klamath County Parole Probation Supervisor
Deflection Coordinator

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