

Submitter:

Cody James

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB195

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 195, which directs the Department of Corrections (DOC) to study "best practices for confining people" and report by September 15, 2026. This bill is a wasteful distraction from urgent priorities: overturning Measure 110, increasing prison expansion responsibly, and protecting Second Amendment rights.

Measure 110's decriminalization of hard drugs has been a disaster. Since 2020, Oregon's fentanyl-related overdose deaths spiked 83% by 2022, outpacing national trends. House Bill 4002's partial rollback will add 1,333 drug convictions yearly, per a 2023 Criminal Justice Commission report, yet SB 195 fritters away resources on confinement studies instead of fully repealing Measure 110 and boosting treatment. The state poured \$302 million into addiction services, but only 1% of citation recipients sought help. We need results, not reports.

Next, SB 195's focus on confinement practices could sidestep the real need: increasing prison expansion to address overcrowding. Oregon's prison population dropped from 14,000 in 2019 to 12,000 in 2023, per DOC data, and Measure 110 saved \$37 million biennially by cutting arrests. But with drug crime rising, we must expand capacity—each inmate costs \$60,000 annually—rather than rely on vague studies. A 2021 RAND study shows diversion programs cut recidivism by 16%; pair that with smart expansion, not endless analysis.

Lastly, SB 195 ignores Second Amendment threats like Measure 114, which burdens gun owners with permit delays and magazine bans. Over 70% of Oregon sheriffs opposed it, citing strained enforcement. Why study confinement when constitutional rights need defending?

SB 195 misplaces focus. Repeal Measure 110, expand prisons wisely, and protect gun rights—don't waste time on studies. I urge you to reject this bill.