



## VANESSA CORNWALL

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Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
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DATE: April 9, 2025  
TO: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response  
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
RE: HB 3576, Relating to Funding for Deflection Programs

Dear Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Co-Vice-Chair Mannix, and Members of the Committee:

As a local government that has invested deeply in community-based approaches to behavioral health and criminal justice reform, Lane County strongly supports HB 3576, which transfers responsibility of developing a formula for the distribution of deflection grant funds across Oregon counties to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

HB 3576 provides a vital pathway to ensure that deflection programs—which serve individuals with substance use and behavioral health disorders before they enter the criminal justice system—are equitably funded and sustainably supported. Deflection efforts not only reduce the burden on law enforcement and the courts but, more importantly, connect vulnerable individuals to the services and support they need.

Lane County especially appreciates the thoughtful consideration of key factors in the proposed funding formula, including:

- Rurality, which acknowledges the unique challenges and costs faced by counties like ours in providing services across large geographic areas.
- The number of law enforcement agencies requiring coordination, which is crucial in jurisdictions with multiple municipalities.
- Drug overdose and arrest data, as well as rates of homelessness and medical assistance recipients, which are reliable indicators of community need.

These metrics will help ensure that funds are distributed based on both capacity and need, allowing counties like Lane to build effective, collaborative deflection systems tailored to our population.

We also support the bill's provisions requiring strong local partnerships and culturally responsive, trauma-informed services. In Lane County, we have seen firsthand how collaboration between district attorneys, law enforcement, behavioral health providers, and community partners can transform lives and reduce recidivism.

HB 3576 strengthens Oregon's commitment to upstream solutions by empowering counties with the resources and flexibility they need. We are eager to work with the CJC to implement this model and are prepared to scale and enhance our existing programs in line with the bill's goals.

For these reasons, Lane County urges passage of HB 3576.

**ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER**