



OREGON ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

4/18/2025

RE: Written Testimony for HB 2004; Community Corrections Funding and Victims

Dear Co Chairs Senator Leiber and Representative Sanchez, and Committee,

I am Dr. Marci Nelson, a senior manager from Washington County Community Corrections in Hillsboro, and I oversee my department's Victims' Services Program. I am submitting this testimony as a delegate of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors and as a liaison for the Community Corrections Victims Advocacy Network.

I am asking you to support funding community corrections at the Actual Cost Study capitated rate of \$18.18, but through the lens of **crime victims' services**.

When it comes to community corrections, focus tends to be on those services provided for those on supervision; to mitigate further crime, support their recovery, and motivate them to become productive citizens. Successful supervision and services for offenders certainly helps crime victims' safety as well as community safety. But victims' have specific needs.

While there is dedicated state funding for victims' assistance programming within DAs' offices, these services typically end after prosecution. Yet a person is still a crime victim even after the case is decided.

Post-conviction crime victims have many unique needs, including:

- Upholding their statutory crime victims' rights
- Sharing case information and demystifying the post-conviction system
- Notifications for hearings, early discharge, and safety concerns
- Collection and disbursement of court-ordered restitution
- Safety planning, resources, and referrals for community services
- Court accompaniment and,
- Empathetic support and problem-solving

Out of 36 Oregon Counties, there are only 7 who fund post-conviction crime victim advocates within community corrections, and 2 of those are at risk of cutting their victims' services programming.

At the same time, Parole & Probation Officers also have a duty to serve and meet the needs of crime victims, meaning they have two clients per caseload, the offender and the victim. For counties who can't fund post-conviction advocates, PPOs have an even greater responsibility to meet victim needs. Right-sized caseloads, trauma-informed skills, and the time to respond thoughtfully are crucial to victim safety and restoration. When PPO caseload numbers are high, crime victims become less of a priority, and safety suffers.

Thank you for considering the needs of post-conviction crime victims in funding the Actual Costs of community corrections.

Sincerely,

Marci Nelson, PhD
OACCD Delegate & Liaison

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*Providing leadership,
advocacy, and
support services to
Community
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so they can positively
impact clients,
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