



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Joanne Verger
900 Court Street NE, S-401
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Chip Shields
900 Court Street NE, H-276
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Verger and Shields:

I am writing to express my support for the sentencing proposal that you and the other members of the legislative workgroup developed with input from members of the public safety community. I understand that the elements of your proposal have been amended into HB 2335 and 2290, both of which will be heard in the Public Safety Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means later today.

You are truly to be commended for your efforts to develop consensus around this package of sentencing changes which will generate enough savings to maintain critical public safety services like State Police 24/7 patrol, Oregon Youth Authority beds, court days and other services. These changes will also allow the legislature to better control the growing costs of corrections.

While some may quibble about certain policy choices in this package, I believe that most of the elements of your proposal are firmly grounded in research based on public safety policy. Rather than releasing offenders early en masse, as some have advocated in response to the budget crisis, your approach strikes the right balance between incarceration and rehabilitation for the purpose of reducing recidivism and future victimization. Your planned phase-in of Measure 57 keeps faith with the will of the voters by focusing some of the savings you generate to the treatment and supervision of repeat property offenders, and providing the means to deliver sanctions for offenders who do not comply.

Thank you very much for your efforts to maintain the safety of Oregonians and the critical public safety services that we need in our communities.

Sincerely,



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

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