



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

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*Committed To,
And Value,
Offender
Reformation,
Services to
Victims, Crime
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SB 497- Support for Supervising Domestic Violence Crimes

The Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) have been active supporters of the statewide reform conversations currently taking place. A foundational piece of these discussions is grounded in making sure Oregon's criminal justice system is providing supervision and services to the most appropriate crimes and reserving limited resources to make the most positive impact. The role of community supervision is to provide supervision and services with a goal of changing behavior and preventing further crimes. OACCD supports an increased focus on the most serious crimes with a direct impact on victims. For this reason, we ask for support for Legislative Concept (LC) 3049.

Impact of SB 497

LC 3049 would provide grant-in-aid funding from the Department of Corrections for community corrections to provide supervision, sanctions and services for individuals convicted of certain domestic violence misdemeanors.

This additional investment will mean that the following types of crimes will be fully funded for supervision:

- Assault in the Fourth Degree constituting Domestic Violence
- Menacing constituting Domestic Violence
- Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree

Community Corrections has the expertise to assess and address the risk factors associated with hands-on victimization and have the tools and to implement effective case plans and the associated treatment plans to change behavior and minimize the likelihood of future criminal conduct related to domestic violence and sexual abuse. However, we are not currently funded by the State to perform these services on the specific crimes addressed in this bill. By providing grant-in-aid funding to cover these categories of crimes it will help to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions and receive the needed evidence based treatment to address their behavior, providing some level of ease to the victims involved.

This bill would allow Community Corrections jurisdictions around the state to provide needed supervision in an equitable and consistent manner while providing essential services to justice involved individuals who have done direct harm to members of our communities. Providing funding for this population could enhance current services such as:

- Intensive supervision, increased contacts and home visits,
- Day Reporting/Electronic Monitoring/Polygraphs,
- Cognitive programming,
- Assessments to determine risk of further assaultive behavior in conjunction with coordination of victim services, and
- Domestic Violence Intervention Counseling for those who commit domestic violence against their intimate partner.



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Current Practice

The Department of Corrections grant-in-aid funding currently funds Felony Domestic Violence crimes such as Felony Assault 4 and Felony Strangulation. This is an important population to receive supervision and services. However, domestic violence and sexual assaults are a continued concern for our industry, our stakeholders, and the public.

Violence against women can cause long-term physical and mental health problems. Violence and abuse affects not just the women involved but also their children, families, and communities. These effects include harm to an individual's health, possibly long-term harm to children, and harm to communities such as lost work and homelessness.

Historically, Community Corrections uses State funds to facilitate formal supervision and treatment in tandem to prevent future recidivism. However, we have not received funding for supervision of domestic violence and Sex Abuse III cases. Because these crimes typically fall under a misdemeanor classification they do not qualify for Community Corrections Allotment funding under current statute. This translates to someone who commits a crime involving a physical assault not necessarily receiving supervision. Many of these misdemeanor domestic violence cases are often high risk and considered precursor behavior associated with more violent crimes.

Because these misdemeanor crimes pose a risk both to the general public as well as victims, many Counties throughout the state have decided to fund some specific supervision and services because we believe it is imperative to prevent escalation in abuse behaviors and further prevent prison usage. This funding is providing direct services to perpetrators who have victimized family members and through treatment and interventions, have made significant progress to prevent future victimization.

As mentioned above, OACCD is committed to providing the right level of supervision to the right people. We believe that holding justice involved individuals accountable while identifying the services needed to change behavior is our most important mission. We also believe that providing services to victims is just as valued.

This can only be done when we have adequate resources. The 2019-2020 legislative session unfortunately negatively impacted our statewide allocation, affecting our ability to provide services to those under our supervision and promote public safety in our communities. We have done our best to adjust to this new reality. However, we will continue to advocate for funding needed to provide public safety. We believe that the misdemeanor crimes listed above rise to the level of statewide support to fund supervision. Ensuring that all Counties supervise these cases can lead to a decreased reliance on prison, a more unified response to address these crimes, and fewer victims.

For additional information contact: Lara Smith 503-804-9750