



# PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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## **House Passes Bill to Improve Public Safety, Reduce Costs**

*HB 3078, the Safety and Savings Act, promotes treatment, accountability, and safety*

Oregon will continue to pioneer smart criminal justice reform that increases community safety and prioritizes treatment and rehabilitation for non-violent offenses. [House Bill 3078](#), the Safety and Savings Act, is a targeted approach to holding people accountable, addressing addiction and treating the root cause of addiction-driven property crime.

HB 3078 follows groundbreaking work from previous sessions, primarily the Justice Reinvestment Program, which is rebuilding lives and reducing the need for corrections spending.

“As a former police chief, nothing is more important to me than ensuring safety and working to prevent crime,” says **Rep. Carla Piluso (D-Gresham)**. “When I arrested women with their children watching, I knew I was altering their lives forever. Many of these mothers were in domestic violence situations or struggling with addiction or mental illness. I know we can hold perpetrators accountable and actually start to address the root causes of crime to reduce the likelihood of future crime and future victims.”

HB 3078:

- Maintains and improves the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program,
- Increases the limit for short-term transitional leave from prison from 90 to 120 days,
- Modifies two non-violent crimes to permit shorter presumptive sentences with stricter supervision,
- And directs the Criminal Justice Commission to study the impact of these changes on prison use, recidivism, and public safety, and report back to the Legislature annually

In addition to the provisions of this bill, the Legislature’s budget-writing committee has allocated \$7 million to diversion programs through Justice Reinvestment, as well as \$1 million for domestic and sexual violence services and programs.

“Oregon’s children and families are being torn apart by a system of over-incarceration that does not address the root causes of crime, nor provide adequate resources for victims or invest in the incredible human potential of many who are currently struggling,” says **Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-North and NE Portland)**, who has served as Director of Family Services at the Native

American Youth and Family Center for more than 20 years. “I support HB 3078 because of my experience working with countless Native women at Coffee Creek, many of whom were victims of domestic violence, suffered from addiction, and who were looking for help to turn their lives around and weren’t given the tools to do so.”

HB 3078 incorporates recommendations that were made by a public safety cost-containment workgroup led by former House Judiciary Chairs Lane Shetterly and Greg MacPherson. The workgroup recognized that in the face of the current budget deficit, it is especially important to work toward smarter investments for public safety and prioritize education, treatment, and economic opportunity over prisons.

Oregon faces a skyrocketing female prison population and the state is still on the razor's edge of opening a new women's prison in the coming years, which would cost the state an additional \$17.5 million. HB 3078 targets cost drivers in our corrections system to reduce the need to open a new women's prison for the next 10 years.

The bill passed 33-26 and will be considered by the Senate in the closing days of the legislative session.

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