

from the desks of

REPRESENTATIVE RICK LEWIS & REPRESENTATIVE RAQUEL MOORE-GREEN

For Immediate Release

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<u>Representatives Lewis and Moore-Green Urge Emergency Board to</u> <u>Allocate Funds to Community Corrections</u>

Salem, Ore – Today, Representative Rick Lewis (R-Silverton) and Representative Raquel Moore-Green (R-Salem) are calling on the Emergency Board to allocate funds to Community Corrections to lessen the impacts felt by the budget shortfall.

"The reduction in baseline funding will have immediate and devastating impacts on the services community corrections provides," said Lewis. "The Emergency Board can and should act swiftly to prevent layoffs and allow community corrections to keep providing these services to our communities. We cannot wait until the 2020 session to address this shortfall. I hope that this is something that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can support as well."

In 1995 and 1996 a pair of bills created a <u>new way</u> of handling inmates in Oregon, giving counties the responsibility for felons on parole, probation, post-prison supervision, or who received a sentence of less than 12 months incarceration. This program has led to a decrease in state spending on prisons, and reduced recidivism rates.

"The counties have come so far in their work with community corrections, and this budget cut will undo all the progress we have made," said Moore-Green. "In Marion County we have seen markedly reduced recidivism rates and great success with the treatment programs offered through community corrections. We must ensure that these vital programs are able to continue."

The Emergency Board has broad powers to allocate general funds for unanticipated government requirements when the legislature is not in session.