

**FLOYD PROZANSKI**  
**STATE SENATOR**

**DISTRICT 4**  
503-986-1704 - Capitol  
sen.floydprozanski@oregonlegislature.gov



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**900 COURT ST NE**  
**SALEM, OREGON 97301**

March 2, 2022

Vote Explanation  
SB 1510 B

As a co-carrier of SB 1510 B, I want to share additional reasons why I supported the bill which I did not have time to state during my closing remarks.

**Regarding Sections 13 – 18 (Justice Reinvestment):**

The Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (JREP) is an essential part of SB 1510 B. It will allow communities of color and other historically underserved groups to meaningfully participate in the JRI process, and access these critical resources, for the first time.

*There are disparities in how Justice Reinvestment has worked in Oregon.*

- When creating Justice Reinvestment (JRI) in 2013, advocates and the state neglected to disaggregate data, nor require targeted investments, to ensure that JRI would impact different populations equitably – the program has not been equitable.
- The women’s prison population did not go down as the men’s population did over the first few years of JRI, and racial disparities persisted in the prison population. To address those structural inequalities in JRI, a few changes have been made since this program’s inception:
  - In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3078 to prevent the need to open a second prison for women. While the program had driven down the overall prison population, it had not been successful in driving down the women’s prison population.
  - In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3064 to study how JRI has impacted historically underserved communities, and whether culturally specific organizations were receiving JRI resources.
- Additionally, the HB 3064 report, as well as other evaluations, showed that significant disparities continue to exist in the JRI program.

*JREP is narrowly tailored to address these disparities and is the least restrictive way to do so.*

- The Justice Reinvestment Equity Program created by SB 1510 B is designed to specifically address disparities found in this report.
- CJC has said sentencing reform could reduce disparities, but the legislature has chosen not to do that. Given that reality, JREP is the only option narrowly tailored to address these disparities that past criminal justice reforms have failed to impact.
- Since 2013, the Justice Reinvestment program has allocated a total of \$150 million to all 36 Oregon counties and \$40 million this biennium; and

- This new funding stream of JRI will invest \$10 million to go to culturally responsive and culturally-specific programs and is a small portion of the overall program serving the state. The other JRI funding streams that currently exist will remain in place.

*Investments in culturally specific and responsive services can help reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system.*

- As noted in the CJC’s HB 3064 report, p. 25-26 “***Culturally specific services are the preferred service delivery model for historically underserved communities, as they have been shown to eliminate structural barriers and lead to better outcomes.***”
- The 3064 report further identified structural barriers to these programs accessing current JRI funding streams, p. 28, “***Culturally-specific providers traditionally have been excluded from consideration for JRI treatment subcontracts and victim services allocations—a reflection of institutional and systemic barriers.***”
- The report also identifies several structural barriers for these programs at the local level, which include a failure to revisit existing contracts, truncated timelines for applications, and contracts awarded based on existing relationships “***often to the exclusion of culturally specific providers.***” (p, 29)
- Included in the recommendations of the 3064 report is that “***The Legislature should carve out direct funding for culturally specific organizations.***” (p. 31)

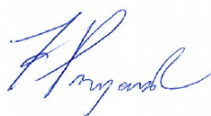
*Culturally responsive and specific programs include more than race.*

- Culturally specific and culturally-responsive programs are about more than just race. Indeed, many culturally specific programs also serve all races while still being designed for a specific culture.
- While these programs will help to reduce racial disparities, culturally specific organizations and culturally responsive programs can also serve Eastern European communities, LGBTQ+ communities, and other historically underserved groups. All those organizations could potentially receive grants from this program.

**SB 1510 B, Sections 26 – 29 (Criminal Justice Data Reporting):**

These sections of the bill will assist the Legislature in determining if the above policy decisions are having their intended effect. The CJC will be required to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 15, 2024, on the use of Justice Reinvestment Program and the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program funds to address the disparities noted in the HB 3064 (2019) CJC report.

Again, for the reasons stated during my floor carry and those within this vote explanation, I voted yes on SB 1510 B (2022).



Floyd Prozanski