



# State Representative Duane Stark House District 4

News Release: May 31, 2016

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## **Representative Stark Assigned Leadership Role on Important Public Safety Panel** ***House Speaker Appoints Stark to Oregon Criminal Justice Commission***

(Salem) "I am honored to be asked to be a part of this important public safety team," said [State Representative Duane Stark](#) (R-Grants Pass) after House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) appointed him to be a member of the [Oregon Criminal Justice Commission](#) (CJC) this week. The 9-member commission includes one state representative and one state senator.

"The Criminal Justice Commission plays an integral role in public safety and helps support Community Corrections in facilitating funding opportunities, providing research, endorsing evidence-based practices, spearheading important initiatives, and providing consultation to Community Correction's leadership," said Nate Gaoran Director of Josephine County Community Corrections. "I am excited to have Representative Stark appointed to the Commission because his strong leadership and unwavering core values are mutually shared with the CJC, thereby, promoting respected leadership and significant representation for the citizens of Southern Oregon."

CJC manages the Justice Reinvestment grant funds earmarked by the legislature to assist in reducing the prison population and transitioning offenders with community based programs for things like work release and substance abuse in an effort to reduce recidivism. In the first two years of funding Jackson County received nearly \$850,000 (2013-15) and in next round (2015-17) the figure more than doubled to just over \$2 million. Josephine County's grant funds went from \$420,000 to just over \$1 million in the current budget cycle.

The commission initially started and remains a valuable partner for community corrections statewide by distributing grant funds for drug courts and similar programs. Today there are 34 such [specialty courts](#) including those in Jackson and Josephine counties. "I am looking forward to working with Rep Stark," said Beth Heckert, Jackson County District Attorney. "The Criminal Justice Commission is really having a big impact on the criminal justice system, so it is important to have dedicated, committed people working on that commission."

Representative Stark has worked on numerous public safety initiatives during his first term in office including expansion of [sober centers in state law](#) and helping to allocate \$500,000 in state funds for the Grants Pass Sober Center. Several new laws to protect the safety of foster children have also been spearheaded by Representative Stark, including the new [Governor's Child Foster Care Commission](#).

"Our community is fortunate to have Representative Stark's leadership on the new Grants Pass Sober Center," explained Grants Pass Public Safety Chief Bill Landis. "I'm proud to know he will be a part of this statewide commission which can help direct resources to local areas like ours often facing a lot of public safety problems."

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