



Senator Jackie Winters

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Corrections reform provides opportunity for re-investment

Salem, OR – The Oregon Senate adopted a bi-partisan set of reforms to Oregon’s sentencing, prison and probation system. House Bill 3194A passed 19 to 11, and now goes to the Governor for his approval.

“This is a modest first step towards a smarter public safety system,” said Senator Jackie Winters (R-Salem), who helped craft the bill. “It will require accountability from offenders, prevent crime, and provide support for victims. It will also save hundreds of millions of dollars and ensure a better, more efficient and more effective public safety system.”

House Bill 3194A is a product of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and months of work. The measure frees up bed space in Oregon prisons by allowing certain convicts to qualify for probation at the end of their sentences. It also modifies sentencing for certain non-violent offenses, such as select marijuana offenses and driving with a suspended license.

The bill allowed for the budget committee to make a \$57 million investment in public safety funding, including doubling the state’s investment in community based domestic violence shelters and expanding investment in victims assistance programs. The budget for community corrections was also given an 18% increase. Sheriffs were given an extra \$5 million to ensure that swift and sure sanctions are available for offenders.

“This represents a tremendous re-investment in safer neighborhoods and streets,” said Winters.

House Bill 3194A was supported by the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association, Oregon State Police Officers Association, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, the Oregon District Attorney’s Association, Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women, Women’s Crisis Service, Urban League of Portland, Oregon Business Plan and many others.

Winters is a retired small business owner and has served in the state legislature since 1998, when she was elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected to the Senate in 2002.

Jackie has lived in Salem for 42 years.

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