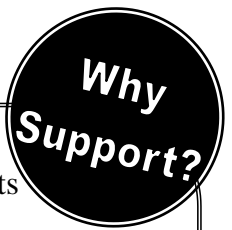


A Smarter Way to Fight Crime



Issue Explanation: *Justice Reinvestment* is a strategy that state governments across the country are using to reevaluate public safety spending and move towards smarter investments. From a business perspective, our prison system is failing. Incarceration is the most expensive means of maintaining public safety. **Oregon needs to be more cost effective and strategic in its use of incarceration, while investing in the programs proven to reduce future crime and recidivism at a fraction of the cost.**

We are on the verge of committing hundreds of millions of dollars to build a new prison in Junction City while cutting community-based addiction treatment and mental health services by at least \$100 million. This is a recipe for disaster from a public safety perspective and a poor use of tax dollars. The Justice Reinvestment model encourages legislators to pass smart criminal justice reforms that generate savings and prevent cuts to community-based treatment programs that are effective at reducing crime.

Background: The goals behind Justice Reinvestment are to:

- Increase public safety
- Strengthen services that build safe, sound, and healthy communities
- Save the state money
- Gutting community-based drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, and victim services will come at a time of increased need. The economic crisis aggravates people's existing struggles with addiction, mental illness, and domestic violence.
- It is profoundly less expensive to invest in these community treatment services than throw away hundreds of millions of dollars building new prison beds.
- There are a wide range of safe and sensible sentencing reforms that actually improve public safety while saving significant money. (*see back*)

Key Facts

Oregon spends a greater percentage of its general fund budget on our prison system than any other state in the country.

For every dollar invested in community-based drug treatment, Oregon receives \$6 - \$7 dollars of savings and benefits in return.

In 2003, Washington State increased earned-time for a large segment of offenders in prison. After taking four years to study the impact, WA State found that it actually reduced recidivism while saving millions of dollars.