

For Immediate Release

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **15 Years of Measure 11: A Reason to Mourn, Not to Celebrate**

Kevin Mannix's group, the Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance, is celebrating 15 years of Measure 11 at the capitol today, a law that created one-size-fits-all sentences and has helped to wreak havoc on Oregon's state budget. Just this month, a [report by PEW Center on the States](#) found that Oregon continued to grow its prison population while more than half of states saw a drop this year. This is nothing to celebrate. States around the country have been reducing their prison population as a way to save money and because other, more cost-effective interventions have been shown to maintain public safety.

National studies have found that incarceration can only account for a small percentage of a drop in crime rates and a RAND report that specifically looked at Measure 11 found no conclusive data that Measure 11 had caused the drop in crime.

"Despite the lack of research to show that Measure 11 has reduced crime in Oregon, Mannix continues to say it did. Does he think by saying it's true then the public will eventually believe it?" asks Shannon Wight, Associate Director for Partnership for Safety and Justice, a statewide membership organization that advocates for smart public safety policies. "When it comes to public safety, we need to rely on research and facts, not political rhetoric."

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has found that Measure 11 has been the key driver in the growth of the prison population and that increased incarceration is not responsible for [Oregon's drop in crime](#). Oregon's corrections budget has almost quadrupled since the implementation of Measure 11 and now sits at \$1.4 billion a biennium.

"As the author of Measure 11, Mannix is scared of the trends around the country that are moving towards more cost-effective approaches to public safety. It's his law, and of course he wants to see this as a birthday, but really it should be a going away party."

Oregon is headed in the right direction when it comes to public safety. During the 2009 legislative session, Democrats and Republicans passed the Safety and Savings Act (House Bill 3508) which created \$50 million in corrections savings that were reinvested into other essential public safety services like the state crime lab and the Oregon Youth Authority. This followed comprehensive methamphetamine legislation in 2005 that included money for treatment, greatly reduced meth production in Oregon and has become a model for country, as well as a vote by Oregonians for Measure 57 that rejected the mandatory minimums that Kevin Mannix proposed in favor of treatment for addiction driven crime.

"Oregonians and the Oregon legislature have demonstrated their commitment to a smarter approach to crime. Mannix is clinging to a dying trend in crime policy," noted Wight.

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