

Sample Testimony in Support of Prison Programs

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members,

Date

My name is xxxxxxxx and I live on xxx Street in Hillsboro.

I am here today to ask you to **FULLY FUND DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT IN PRISON!** These programs are indispensable strategies that reduce crime. I know this first hand.

I received my G.E.D. in Oregon State Penitentiary, and had the opportunity to participate in the 1145 drug treatment at the Marion County Jail. These opportunities had a profound effect on my life. It's been six years since I attended the drug treatment program and since then I have been able to maintain a good job as a painter/welder. But, the most important thing is since the program I have been able to be a good role model for my 3 sons.

My oldest son was one step away from prison when I had been released from the program. He had already been to McLaren and was serving a 6 month sentence at the Multnomah County Jail, Inverness. His wife was pregnant at the time with their second child and I was serious about helping him to not live the life I had. *Using the skills I learned in the drug treatment program I began to interact with my son in ways I had never been able to do before.* I am happy to say that my son has not been back to jail since that incident and about six months ago my daughter-in-law thanked me for being a good role model for him. This is something I never thought possible. Everyone in my family: my wife, mother, sisters, sons and grandchildren are happier now that I have quit using drugs, all because the state of Oregon had a bed for me in a drug treatment program.

But now the Governor is proposing cutting treatment beds by one-third, and I can't help but wonder about the lost opportunities somebody's child will miss by not having a father or a mother who can be a good role model just as I am able to be. **More than 75% of people in prison have a drug or alcohol problem** and they are caught up in the cycle of using drugs and going to prison. Without any programs to help them break that cycle it becomes hopeless. I should know, I was in that cycle for years. Now I'm a better father and a taxpayer instead, all because of the bed in the treatment program I was able to use back in 1998.

Please support Prison Programs they really do help change lives and reduce crime.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Full name and contact info can go here.

You must state your name for the record.

State your main message right away.

Why you? Share relevant personal or professional experience.

Share a short version of your personal story and tie it to your specific point. Don't assume legislators will be able to make the connection. Make it clear.

Repeat your position and main message. Include related facts or figures.

Thank the legislators. They have hard jobs!