



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director  
In Support of HB 3064  
House Judiciary Committee  
March 14, 2019**

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon<sup>1</sup> supports the Accountability and Equity Act (HB 3064), which would ensure Oregon's Justice Reinvestment program is achieving the best possible outcomes in meeting its intended goal of reducing prison use in Oregon.

**Justice Reinvestment in Oregon has been a great success, but like all good policies, it is crucial that we examine and update the programs we have created.** Initially passed in Oregon in 2013, Justice Reinvestment has reduced our state's reliance on prisons. Thanks to this program and a 2017 update, we have kept two state prisons closed and are on track to save a projected amount of nearly \$325 million in prison construction and maintenance costs in the first 10 years. At the same time, justice reinvestment has provided much-needed resources to local communities to expand crime survivor services and services that safely redirect eligible people away from prison.

**The Accountability and Equity Act will ensure that Justice Reinvestment resources are reaching historically underserved communities.** Our criminal justice system disproportionately impacts communities of color, women, LGBTQ people, and rural and tribal communities. To move toward a more equitable justice system, we must create methods for ensuring that these populations are served by programs designed to reduce incarceration. HB 3064 will do this by creating an Equity Advisory Committee that will study and make recommendations on how the Justice Reinvestment program can be updated to achieve this goal.

**The Accountability and Equity Act will hold counties accountable, by ensuring that their use of Justice Reinvestment funding is reducing our reliance on incarceration.** For the last five years, all 36 Oregon counties have received Justice Reinvestment dollars.

---

<sup>1</sup> The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.

While the vast majority of counties have been successful, some public safety actors in a handful of counties have shown a lack of commitment to the approach. For those counties that are perpetually ineffective at working toward this goal, HB 3064 would work with counties to correct course, or if need be, discontinue funds and redirect them to communities that are committed to the program's intended outcomes.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 3064. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.