



June 27, 2013

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police
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Salem, OR 97301

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610 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 210
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PO Box 7468
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RE: Agreement to refrain from pursuing significant sentencing changes if prison population is controlled

My Fellow Oregonians:

House Bill 3194-A represents a negotiated resolution based on recommendations from the Commission on Public Safety. It's important that we give these agreed-to changes, along with grant opportunities for prevention and re-entry programs, a chance to take effect. By adopting these changes to public safety and corrections, our forecasting models predict that the prison population will drop in the current biennium and not approach its current population until mid-2018. In addition, our investments in proven programs that focus on re-entry and prevention will reduce recidivism and initial victimization, which will produce further bed savings beyond what we are able to forecast currently.

Assuming our forecasts hold true, over the next five years, the prison population should remain level, and we will avoid the need to build new corrections facilities. We'll also avoid an over-reliance on temporary and emergency beds within the Department of Corrections. This will achieve costs savings, which was one of the primary goals of the Commission on Public Safety, and these savings can then be re-invested in our public safety system.

I believe these assumptions will hold, and therefore I do not foresee a need to pursue additional significant sentencing changes. My preference is to instead focus our efforts on rebuilding a

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more collaborative relationship between the Legislature and its local law enforcement partners. It is my hope that as we continue to collaborate, we will produce measured improvements to our system, starting with how juveniles are treated.

This legislation represents a meaningful turning point, and I applaud the law enforcement community for its productive engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Kitzhaber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

JAK:kml