



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

APPROVED: MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA # C-8 DATE 2/11/16  
MARINA BAKER, ASST BOARD CLERK

### Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 2/11/16  
Agenda Item #: C.8  
Est. Start Time: 9:30 am  
Date Submitted: 2/4/16

**Agenda Title:** **Letter to Oregon Congressional Delegation in support of Criminal Justice Reform Legislation.**

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.*

### Requested

Meeting Date: 2/11/2016 Time Needed: Consent Agenda

Department: Non-D, District 3 Division: D3

Contact(s): Adam Renon

Phone: 5039885126 Ext. 85126 I/O Address: 503/6/D3

### Presenter

Name(s) &

Title(s): Consent Agenda

### General Information

#### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of a letter to the Oregon Congressional Delegation in support of criminal justice reform legislation (S. 2123) and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406) currently in front of the United States Congress.

#### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The United States Congress is considering changes to the nation's criminal justice system. S. 2123 will reduce sentence disparities, eliminate unnecessary confinement, and establish a more rational and appropriate system of sentencing. It will also promote expungement of certain juvenile offenses and prohibit juvenile solitary confinement except in limited circumstances. Congress is also considering the Second Chance Reauthorization Act, which would improve coordination of reentry services and policies for formerly incarcerated individuals. This letter, from the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, urges the State's Federal delegation to approve both of these measures.

#### 3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

#### 4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

No direct policy issues involved. If these two acts become law, more funding may become

available for public safety programs in Multnomah County .

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

This letter will be sent to members of Oregon's Federal Congressional Delegation.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department**

**Director:** /s/ Judy Shiprack **Date:** 2/4/2016

*Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.*



## Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
Phone: (503) 988-3308

February 3, 2016

Dear Members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation,

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners writes to express support for S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. Multnomah County plays a major role in our state's public safety system, operating two jails and overseeing more than 12,000 individuals on supervision in the community. As the largest social safety net provider in the region, it is critical that individuals receive the right services to meet their needs. We know firsthand the importance of reforming the criminal justice system and we commend efforts, like S. 2123, that aim to achieve these reforms.

S. 2123 will reduce sentencing disparity, eliminate unnecessary confinement, establish more rational and appropriate sentencing policies and lead to better management of limited correctional resources. We also support provisions in S. 2123 that would promote the expungement of certain juvenile offenses, prohibit juvenile solitary confinement except in limited circumstances, and increase the instances in which juveniles are eligible for parole. Further, we support pre-release reentry programs featured in S. 2123 that would help incarcerated individuals prepare to reintegrate back into society. These individuals return to their communities with complex health, education, housing and other needs, which, if not addressed, can increase their likelihood of returning to jail or prison. Reentry programs are integral to their successful reintegration into the community.

Reentry programs are essential for formerly incarcerated individuals prior to their release from correctional facilities, as well as after they return to their communities. We hope you will also give consideration and support to the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406), which would reauthorize and improve Second Chance Act programs that improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities. The Act improves the coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal and local levels and funds demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health and addiction treatment and employment and mentoring services.

We commend you for your work on the Sentencing Reform Act and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act and look forward to working with you to advance these measures.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kafoury  
Multnomah County Chair

Jules Bailey  
District 1 Commissioner

Loretta Smith  
District 2 Commissioner

Judy Shiprack  
District 3 Commissioner

Diane McKeel  
District 4 Commissioner