



**Testimony of Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, Policy Associate
In Support of HB 3300 with Proposed Amendments
House Committee on Judiciary
March 28, 2019**

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ supports HB 3300 with the proposed amendments, which will define and fund the Oregon Center for Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children, an expansion of the Family Preservation Project. It will also create a position for a Gender Responsive Officer within the Department of Corrections.

Treatment of women within our criminal justice system must focus on equity. A woman's pathway to prison is often different than that of men. That difference also extends to the experience one may have within a prison. By adopting HB 3300 with its amendments, Oregon would amplify a program that focuses on educating and enriching incarcerated women with transitioning support. Family unity should be at the forefront of the state's goal when recognizing and addressing the collateral consequences incarceration has for children. HB 3300 rightfully pivots our approach from a parity perspective to one of equity.

The Center for Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children focuses on trauma-informed, gender-responsive, and culturally competent practices to serve those who are most impacted by incarceration. It's no secret that our criminal justice system has long-term impact on youth. Marginalized communities are also disproportionately represented in our incarceration population. For that reason, any restorative and enriching program seeking to help re-entry of incarcerated women must do so in a manner that is competent to the needs of youth and marginalized communities. HB 3300 would direct the Center to continue its mission in meeting these expectations by creating a Gender Responsive Officer position. The current structure of the program has been administered

¹ 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.

since 2015, with a multi-tier approach. This restorative expansion will only further its success.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 3300 with the proposed amendments. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.