

March 10, 2011

Dear Complex Dialogues Summit Participants,

We appreciate your continued support of efforts to reduce the rate of female incarceration and improve the criminal justice system in Oklahoma. Our work during the January 2010 summit has been carried forward by leaders across the state, and we now have another opportunity to assist with these efforts. Speaker Kris Steele has proposed House Bill 2131 to promote effective criminal justice strategies that help facilitate in breaking the cycle of incarceration and enhance safety by keeping violent offenders in prison and holding all offenders accountable.

HB 2131 proposes the following:

- * Expands eligibility for community sentencing programs and mandatory supervision
- * Establishes qualification requirements for Parole Board members
- * Limits the Governor's role in the parole process for nonviolent offenders
- * Expands eligibility for Oklahoma's existing Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring program
- * Changes default sentencing to run concurrent instead of consecutive

A majority of these measures were discussed and recommended during the Complex Dialogues Summit, so we felt you would be interested in following this legislation. This bill will be heard on the floor of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 15.

This is a statewide issue and passage will require support from legislators across the entire state. Several partners in Complex Dialogues, the Solutions Initiatives Summit, and Count the Costs are supporting this measure and they are urging others to get involved. They are asking you to take a few moments to contact your local legislators today and ask them to support HB 2131.

Thank you,

Brian Bush, J.D.

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