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Support HB17-1326: Justice Reinvestment Crime Prevention Initiative

By: Representatives Lee, Exum and Melton & Senators Gardner, Kagan, Merrifield, Priola

Rationale

Despite the state spending over \$1 billion annually just on corrections, many of the neighborhoods that experience higher rates of crime and criminal justice involvement have seen little or no improvement.

We may actually be losing ground in the face of a persistent gap in addiction and mental health treatment, damaging families separated by incarceration, long-term trauma from victimization, straining police and community relations, exacerbating inequality and racial disparity, and making it harder for people with a criminal record to find employment and housing to support their families.

Law enforcement is stretched thin, jails are overcrowded and our state prisons are at capacity. There has to be another way to help communities that are in need of solutions outside of the criminal justice system.

CCJRC supports HB17-1362 because it acknowledges that strengthening communities most impacted by crime and criminal justice involvement in a targeted and comprehensive way is a powerful, yet often over-looked, public safety strategy.

Community development strategies like expanding lending for small businesses, improving academic achievement for young people, and providing needed direct services are all known to help prevent crime by promoting community well-being, opportunity, and early intervention.

The proposed model for the Justice Reinvestment Crime Prevention Initiative is based on:

- local-control that empowers planning teams in Aurora and Colorado Springs to be innovative and identify their crime prevention priorities
- the expertise of the private-sector, both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, in key roles. Community Development Financial Institutions would help to cultivate and support entrepreneurship through small business lending. A community foundation would help facilitate the local planning team process, and manage the grant making and evaluation processes to ensure accountability.
- the Department of Local Affairs would provide over-all management, oversight and reporting to the General Assembly.

The Legislature has adopted a justice reinvestment approach in numerous other criminal justice reform bills including HB10-1352, HB10-1360, HB12-1223, SB13-250, HB13-1160, HB 13-1156, and SB14-124.

What HB17-1326 Does:

- Reduces the number of days a person on parole may be revoked and re-incarcerated on a technical parole violation if they were serving parole for a lower level, non-violent offense.
- Improves parole release planning by requiring the DOC to conduct a parole plan investigation prior to the parole hearing and allows the Parole Board to table the parole decision if a parole plan is inadequate and request the DOC with consultation from the inmate to submit a revised parole plan within 30 days.
- Would reinvest savings from the parole reforms to fund the Justice Reinvestment Crime Prevention Initiative in Aurora and Colorado Springs.

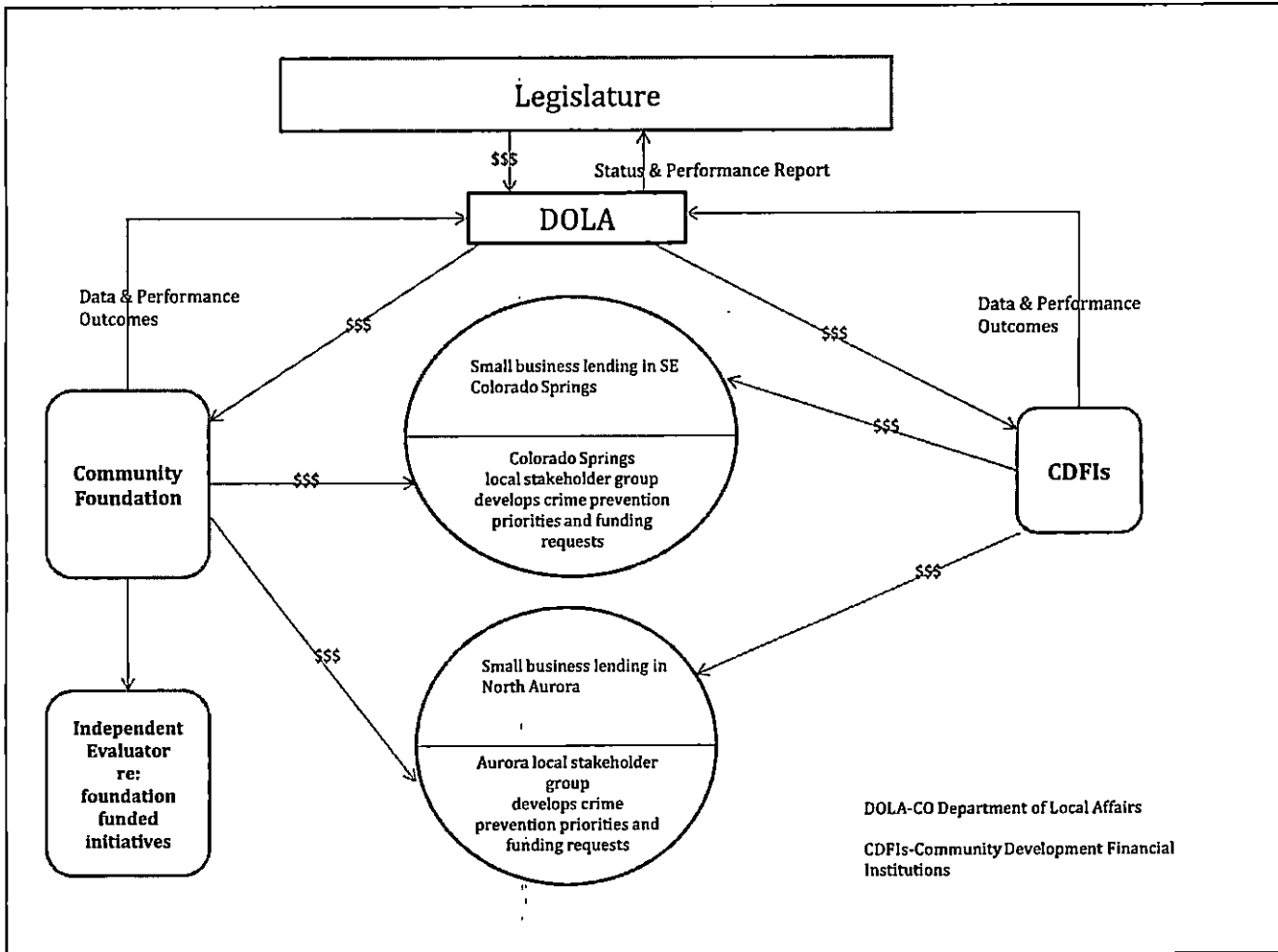
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Revocation options available to the Parole Board

Nature of parole violation	Applies to what offenses for which the person was on parole	Length of revocation period
Law violation-any level	All	Up to remainder
Technical violation	F2, DF1 or any level of COV	Up to remainder
Technical violation	stalking (18-9-111(4)), menacing (18-3-206), unlawful sexual behavior (16-22-102(9)), and parolees subject to article 6.5 of title 18 or section 18-6-102(9)	Up to remainder
Technical violation	Parole designated as sexually violent predator (18-3-414.5)	Up to remainder
Technical violation	DF2, F3 nonviolent defined in 17-22.5-405(5)(b)	Up to 90 days
Technical violation	DF3, DF4, F4, F5 or F6 nonviolent (defined in 17-22.5-405(5)(b))	Up to 30 days

Repeal CRCF option 17-1-206.5(3) (DOC contracted beds in halfway houses for parole violators)

Justice Reinvestment Crime Prevention Initiative



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