

Colorado Association of
Community Corrections Boards



March 20, 2018

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Colorado Association of Community Corrections Boards (CACCB) represents community corrections boards across the state. Boards are comprised of local criminal justice stakeholders that include; law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation and parole officials, victim service agencies, and community members. Community corrections boards support effective reentry practices through multiple efforts including identifying appropriate candidates for placement in residential programs within each respective jurisdiction by balancing community safety interests and offender reentry needs.

The CACCB believes provisions contained within HB18-1251 advance the community corrections system in Colorado and supports the proposed legislation identifying the following as critical and necessary improvements:

- Community Corrections placement decisions are complex. Information contained in the referral is critical to make informed decisions. The proposed legislation improves the information received from the Department of Corrections for community corrections boards and programs to discern which individuals are appropriate for placement – this is often stated as selecting the “right person for the right program at the right time”.
- Requiring subsequent referrals to community corrections will ensure that parole eligible individuals are provided opportunities for placement minimally on an annual basis.
- Providing information to the Department of Corrections stating the reason for denial will increase communication between boards, programs, and case management. This feedback can assist with release preparation and future consideration of a community corrections placement.
- Advancing decision making that applies evidence informed practices through the development and utilization of a structured decision- making model will increase consistency and transparency.
- Increased training opportunities provided by the Division of Criminal Justice for community corrections stakeholders ensures improvement efforts paved by this legislation are effectively implemented and sustained.

The Colorado Association of Community Corrections Boards applauds the collaborative nature of this work and is committed to the improvement opportunities to advance community corrections in Colorado.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Schoengarth', is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Schoengarth, President
Colorado Association of Community Corrections Boards

100 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 1500
Pretrial Unit- ATT: Lori Lucero-Ferman
Golden, CO 80409