

October 16, 2008

09-031

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE
MEASURE 61

PREPARED BY: Denise Frisbee, Chair, Portland Community College
Board of Directors

REPORT: The Portland Community College Board of Directors
opposes passage of Measure 61, which would create
mandatory minimum sentences for certain theft, ID,
forgery, drug and burglary crimes.

Analysis:

1. Measure 61 would limit the sentencing options of judges and prosecuting attorneys.
2. The measure would cost the state of Oregon an estimated \$8 million to \$10 million in the first year, increasing annually to an estimated \$161 million to \$274 million after the fourth year. That's just to run the new prisons. Building three new buildings would cost the state of Oregon \$1.1 billion to \$1.3 billion between 2010 and 2017.
3. Measure 61 would put as many as 6,000 more people in the state prison system in the first three years alone. These would be people convicted primarily of non-violent crimes.

Findings:

1. The board supports tough sentences for criminals but a one-size-fits-all mandate would take options away from judges and prosecuting attorneys, who are better qualified to know which sentences are best in each individual case.
2. The measure would take money away from programs such as education and Human Services, both traditionally under-funded.
3. Another measure on the November ballot, Measure 57, also would create mandatory minimum sentences. That measure was crafted by the Oregon Legislature and, while we do not support either measure, we do

note that Measure 61 would cost an estimated \$300 million more pure biennium than Measure 57.

RECOMMENDATION: The Portland Community College Board of Directors urges all students and community members to become fully informed regarding Measure 61, and to carefully consider the negative consequences for students throughout Oregon.

This resolution was prepared and distributed with non-public money.

Note: This resolution was brought to the Board of Directors by Director Frisbee at the Board meeting.

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