



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

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Commissioner Hall Attends Three-Day National Summit on Stepping Up initiative

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In April, I attended a three-day national summit on the Stepping Up initiative, co-hosted by the National Association of Counties, National Council of State Governments and the American Psychiatric Association.

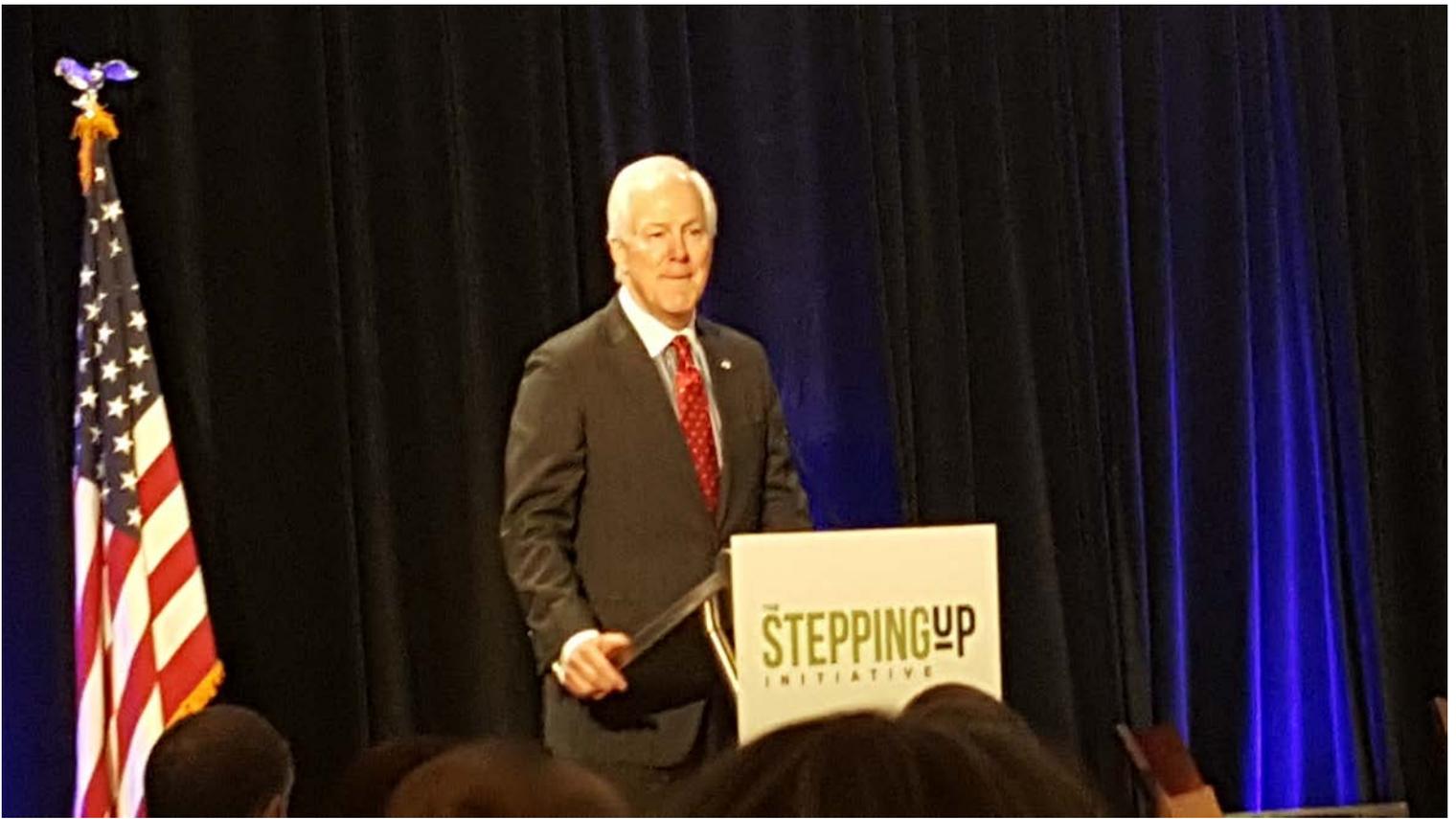


These three organizations came together in the Spring of 2015 to launch Stepping Up, which is designed to reduce the shocking number (two million) of people with mental illness behind bars in this county. It was a great opportunity to learn, share information, and be inspired. My name tag mentioned the Coffey Creek Correctional Facility because everyone's name tag cited the largest mental health institution in the state.

Sadly, in the case of Oregon and 43 other states, that's a correctional facility. This is a hugely complex issue that didn't develop overnight and isn't going to be solved overnight, but one thing that gives me hope is the growing bipartisan consensus that this problem needs to be addressed. Among the speakers were Senators John Coryn (R-Texas) and Al Franken (D-Minn) who both presented very strong messages in support of a focused effort to address this problem.

More Details:

<http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/boc/page/stepping-initiative>



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