



**Oregon  
Juvenile  
Department  
Directors  
Association**

EXHIBIT: 6 SB 1557  
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SUBMITTED BY: Debra

Juvenile Departments  
www.ojdda.org

- Debra Patterson, President
- Faye Fagel, President Elect
- Joe Ferguson, Treasurer

February 6, 2012

To: Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 1557

**The OJDDA concerns/issues regarding SB 1557 are as follows:**

- 1) **Ability to accurately determine if a youth is under the influence of an illegal controlled substance.** This bill contemplates that the law enforcement officer could cite a youth who exhibits signs and symptoms of being under the influence of a controlled substance, based on the officer's observations regarding behavior and symptoms that the officer witnessed, just as an officer can currently do under the existing law involving minor in possession of alcohol. However, there are concerns from the juvenile directors regarding the heightened complexity about making such determinations when it comes to controlled substances. These include the many different types of controlled substances that cause different symptoms and behaviors, the large number of youth who are under the influence of prescribed drugs, and distinguishing adolescent behavior (which can at times be erratic and volatile) with behavior exhibited by someone under the influence of an illegal substance.
- 2) **Unlike alcohol, it is illegal for anyone to be in possession of a controlled substance, regardless of their age.** Concerns were raised that it was not a good policy choice to create a status offense in an area where it should apply to everyone, regardless of their age.
- 3) **Lack of adequate funding to provide adequate resources to this issue,** in terms of judicial, prosecution, law enforcement, and juvenile department resources, as well as potential treatment resources.

**For Further Information Contact:**

**Lara Smith** at 503-804-9750 or **Dave Barrows** at 503-227-5591