



Oregon

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The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 93

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Philip Cox, Oregon Youth Authority assistant director of Community Services here today on behalf of OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 93, a bill introduced by the Department of Corrections for community re-entry support and services for offenders committed to the custody of DOC but completing their sentence and releasing from the physical custody of the Oregon Youth Authority prior to their 19th birthday.

DOC youth in OYA's physical custody who release from OYA youth correctional facilities are supervised by county community corrections agencies during their post-prison supervision period. Most reentry services available through community correction agencies are not designed to serve young offenders, particularly those under the age of 18. Offenders under the age of 19 being released on post-prison supervision who have no viable family or community resources are often placed in housing arrangements intended for adults. They also struggle to access age-appropriate treatment services.

Stable transition planning and reentry services are essential components of effective community reentry for offenders and are associated with lower rates of recidivism during the first year of release. Senate Bill 93 provides the statutory framework for DOC to bridge the gaps in services and supports for young DOC inmates releasing to community corrections supervision. The Youth Authority supports this bill.

Mr. Chair, I would be pleased to answer any questions that Committee members might have.