



**Oregon
Juvenile
Department
Directors
Association**

*Representing Oregon
Juvenile Departments
www.ojdda.org*

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

House Bill 3244 – Increases age of runaway and homeless youth for whom Department of Human Services must recommend policies for system of services and support from age 18 to 21 years.

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association supports House Bill 3244.

During the last legislative session a bill was passed that moved the responsibility for coordinating of the planning for a statewide system of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families from the Oregon Commission on Children and Families to the Department of Human Services. This move made necessary by the sun-setting of the OCCF, was also supported by the Oregon Juvenile Department Director's Association.

Currently, this work at the Department of Human Services is just getting under way with the reconstituting of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of representatives of the public and private agencies and entities that serve this population of children, youth and their families. The Oregon Juvenile Department Director's Association has remained active in this effort to create a service delivery system.

The passage of HB 3244 would make a small administrative change to what is currently happening. Adding the 18-21 year olds to the planning process is good public policy and the right thing to do. The services needed by this age group are no different than those of youth just a year or two younger. Meeting basic needs such as food and shelter, along with connecting youth to education, vocational training, mental health and alcohol and drug services all have positive societal outcomes. With services, more of these young people will be reconnected with their families, get an education, stay out of the criminal justice system and be safe from victimization.

The **Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association seeks your support in passing HB 3244.** It helps at-risk youth get the services they need to thrive and become healthy, productive members of society.

For Further Information Contact:

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