



Oregon

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The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capital
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2049

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

For the record, my name is Philip Cox, Oregon Youth Authority Assistant Director of Community Services. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 2049, a bill filed at the request of the Governor on behalf of OYA. House Bill 2049 provides OYA juvenile community supervision officers the authority to take into custody OYA parole youth offenders when there is an active warrant issued by the superintendent of an OYA youth correctional facility.

Current statute provides OYA juvenile community supervision officers the ability to take youth offenders on probation into custody when authorized by a juvenile court. However, statute does not provide similar authority to take into custody youth offenders on OYA parole. Currently only law enforcement officers may apprehend and deliver OYA parolees to juvenile detention centers or adult jails.

This creates an unnecessary workload for law enforcement agencies, which could efficiently and effectively be handled by OYA juvenile community supervision staff. House Bill 2049 allows for the most efficient use of resources in ensuring public safety and accountability by specifically authorizing agency staff to take parolees into custody on an OYA warrant for parole violation.

This bill has no impact on the current policies or training of OYA officers since they currently are given authority by juvenile courts to take OYA probation youth offenders into custody. There is no negative fiscal impact from this bill and, as I indicated earlier, it creates public safety efficiencies that can result in cost savings to local law enforcement resources. Again, I would reiterate that House Bill 2049 only provides custody authority to OYA staff on warrants issued by OYA youth correctional facility superintendents for violating conditions of parole.

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