



POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners

CRAIG A. POPE

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February 12, 2013

Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

GREGORY P. HANSEN

Administrative Officer

Dear Chair Tomei:

On behalf of the Polk County Board of Commissioners, please accept this letter of support for 2392 as amended. This bill will keep essential funding, which is used for the Polk County Sanction Court, Service Integration, and Mentor programs.

Sanction Court is the primary diversion program, covering five areas in the County. The Sanction Court process provides an opportunity for face-to-face contact with every first time youth offender and a parent, thereby decreasing recidivism and increasing accountability to first time offenders for their crimes. (For the calendar year 2008, the success rate (youth not re-offending) while enrolled in the Sanction Court Program was 95.73%).

Polk County's Service Integration Program provides coordinated community resources and information to families, youth, and individuals in Polk County. Examples of Service Integration services offered for youth include community long-board events, paying for sports fees, provision of books and school supplies. The mentoring program, currently being offered at Whitworth Elementary School, provides positive role models in the lives of Polk County fifth graders.

Over one hundred community partners serve on and support the Polk County Sanction Court, Service Integration Team, and Mentor program, and hundreds more youth are helped through these programs. Please strongly consider this bill, which will continue to provide Polk County with the financial assistance needed to maintain these three proven juvenile crime prevention programs used in Polk County. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (503) 623-8173.

Sincerely,

Polk County Board of Commissioners

Jennifer Wheeler, Chair

Mike Ainsworth

Craig Pope