



February 13, 2013

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

RE: HB 2392

My Name is Lynne Schroeder. I am the Juvenile Department Director in Washington County. I am testifying in support of HB 2392 and Representative Clem's amendments.

I have Four Points:

1. **Support Effective Programs:** The JCP Prevention and Youth Investment Funding to counties and Tribes have been highly effective in reducing delinquency, increasing school retention, and supporting positive youth outcomes. In Washington County, these funds have been strategically allocated through a community plan to address risk and needs. The result?
 - 91% of medium and high-risk youth served in Middle Schools have been prevented from Juvenile Justice involvement.
 - High school youth, at risk for drop out, have shown an 88% attendance rate
 - Referrals on high school youth receiving services have decreased 71%.
 - These services are effective.
2. **Establish Equitable Distribution:** Statute already requires distribution to Counties and Tribes of JCP Prevention funds based on youth population. An equitable distribution needs to be established for Youth Investment Funds and continued for JCP funds so that Counties and Tribes can build on their highly effective plans.
3. **Target Criminogenic Risk Factors:** Focusing services on the prevention and intervention of criminogenic risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency is research based and proven. It decreases delinquency and gang involvement and increases success in school. It results in the decreased use of costly incarceration in both the juvenile and adult systems.
 - Washington County is currently underutilizing Oregon Youth Correctional bed capacity by up to 40%.
 - Between 1999 and 2011, juvenile crime in Washington County reduced by 28% at the same time the youth population increased 35%
 - Matching services with youth risk and need is working!
4. **Establish County and Tribe Representation:** Representation by Counties and Tribes on the Youth Development Council will ensure that these effective results are shared, measured and continued.
 - We care about our communities.
 - We want to be effective.
 - We are more effective when we work together, when we are included as partners

I urge you to pass HB 2392 because it will equitably support communities, will give the Youth Development Council clear direction and will continue to fund effective use of public resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Juvenile Department

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