



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Oregon Youth Authority

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May 7, 2013



The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
State Capital  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

### **RE: Senate Bill 188**

The Honorable Jeff Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

For the record, I am Karen Daniels, Assistant Director of Facility Services for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 188A and respond to any questions.

Senate Bill 188A ensures that certain persons committed to the legal custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and housed in Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) facilities may be eligible for work programs.

Research indicates employment experience and readiness is a critical component for successful transition to the community. Work release and work crews provide offenders an opportunity to develop employment skills and experience to support successful transition for community reintegration.

OYA provides programs and opportunities for offenders in which they can develop marketable job skills. OYA and DOC recognize the need to ensure such opportunities are available to all eligible youth in OYA facilities.

Currently, eligible youth offenders in OYA's legal custody receive hands-on work experience and/or opportunities through work programs to help them obtain employment in the community upon release. All the while, hundreds of youth who are in the legal custody of DOC, but living in OYA facilities, are bound by different laws which preclude them from participating in some of these opportunities.

Many of the young DOC inmates housed at OYA are serving mandatory minimum sentences (also known as Measure 11 sentences) and are not eligible for any form of work "release" or temporary "leave." Therefore, the amendment passed in the Senate to Section 2 of the bill will

ensure that this work release provision will not apply to inmates whose sentences were imposed under mandatory minimum sentence statutes or any provision of law that prohibits release on any form of temporary leave from custody.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

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