



OREGON  
*Alliance*  
of Children's Programs

28 February 2013

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chair, Representative Barker;

Vice Chairs, Representative Garrett and Representative Krieger

## **SUPPORT HB 2552**

I am Janet Arenz, Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs. We are a statewide non-profit, supporting good budgets and good policies for children and families, so that we can make children Oregon's greatest asset.

We do this by representing \$205 million in small businesses, delivering services and programs for over 100,000 children. We have a payroll of \$152 million for 5,500 employees and raise \$35 million in philanthropic sources each year.

Member programs span child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, addiction, runaway and homeless, developmental disabilities and prevention.

Many of our members provide evidence-based sex offender treatment for youth who have tremendous potential to overcome the abuse they suffered, and be accountable for the mistakes they made.

We supported the original legislation in 2011 because:

- Youth are very responsive to treatment.
- Recidivism rates, especially for these youth, are very low.
- Registration is an unnecessary barrier to these youth to achieve stable employment, housing, and responsible adulthood.

HB 2552 makes three necessary amendments to the original bill, each of which brings Oregon in line with what already exists for adults, or exists in other states:

- Allow youth to have the same opportunity to petition for relief as adults in Oregon currently receive.
- Set a minimum age for youth to be required to register (16 years). As mentioned above, registration for youngsters is an enormous burden to carry into the future, and reduces the possibility they will achieve the very goals we want for them.
- Allow adults who were youngsters when an incident occurred, to be able to petition the court for relief. The relief would not be automatic; the court would still assess risk factors, and designated predatory offenders would be ineligible for relief.

Thank you for considering our request for support of HB 2552.

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