



## Support House Bill 3183



(- 3 amendments)

### YOUTH SHOULDN'T BE IN ADULT PRISONS

#### What It Does

HB 3183 would allow county law enforcement officials to transport juveniles who are convicted as adults directly to an Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) facility for intake. Currently, these youth are transported—together with adult offenders—to Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, an adult prison, before being transferred to OYA. The bill makes transportation directly to an Oregon Youth Authority permissible (it does not mandate it due to individual counties' transportation practices).

*HB 3183 would make it permissible for counties to transport youth convicted as adults directly to OYA.*

#### What's the problem?

The current practice of transporting juvenile offenders who are convicted as adults to Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is unnecessary and potentially subjects youth to adult prisons who are otherwise destined to serve their sentences in the Oregon Youth Authority. In the past, youth have spent a week or more in Coffee Creek for processing, usually in an isolation cell for their own protection. More recently, after advocacy from Partnership for Safety and Justice, the Department of Corrections has modified this practice and

completes intake within a couple of hours. Still, there is no reason for youth headed to OYA to spend any time in an adult facility.

#### Why we need HB 3183

*HB 3183 would help keep youth out of the adult correctional system, ensuring that they begin both the accountability and rehabilitation process immediately.*

Youth convicted of crimes have special needs that can't be addressed in Oregon's Department of Corrections. What's more, sending youth to the adult criminal justice system is known to put youth at risk and increase the likelihood that they will reoffend. In the past, youth have spent a week or more, usually in an isolation cell, while going through intake at Coffee Creek. HB 3183 would help to ensure that youth can be sent directly to OYA, where they can begin the rehabilitation process immediately.

**HB 3183-3 received a unanimous vote in House Judiciary.**