



Crook County

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February 7, 2014

TO: House Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE, Room 453, Salem, Oregon 97301
Oregon State Capitol

FROM: Michael McCabe, Judge
300 NE Third Street, Room 10
Prineville, Or 97754

Dear Representative Gelser and Committee Members:

This letter is to once again express the Crook County Court's opposition to HB 4134 which will change the funding formula for Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funds from the current population based and minimum grant based formula to a competitive grant process. The funding formula now in place provides equitable funds to each community, allowing equal access to services to high risk youth regardless of geographical restraints. JCP funding was established in 1998 and was part of an overall public safety strategy designed to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system and improve the resiliency factors of these youths. Since that time, communities have developed programs which serve this very vulnerable population, and the outcomes consistently demonstrate that these programs have been highly effective. These programs were developed through the community creating a collaborative process that collectively engaged community organizations, educational professionals, public and private agencies, parents and youth. The end result of this collective process was the development of a unified plan that addressed prevention and intervention services to be delivered to these high risk/high need youth. Data indicates that these programs have been successful. According to the JCP Program 2011 Evaluation Report conducted by NPC Research, there has been a: 1) 49% decrease in risk factors for all JCP youth; 2) 59% decrease in school dropout; and, 3) 43% decrease in chronic truancy. This report also indicates a significant drop in criminal referrals and a decrease in recidivism.

We are deeply concerned that HB 4134 will disrupt the services now being provided to our youth through the JCP. If this bill passes, the current funding allocation plan proposed by the YDC and the "Tier" funding options will potentially harm communities by only allowing access to JCP funds if a community meets indicators of need which were established by the state; not needs defined by individual communities.

On behalf of the Crook County Court, I am asking you to oppose HB 4134 and support the current funding formula for JCP funds. It is the only equitable method of service delivery and has been proven as such for our most vulnerable youth.

Sincerely,



Mike McCabe
Crook County Judge

cc: Rep. Sara Gelser, Chair
Rep. Jeff Reardon, Vice-Chair
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair
Rep. Shemia Fagan
Rep. David Gomberg
Rep. Chris Gorsek
Rep. John Huffman
Rep. Julie Parrish
Rep. Gene Whisnant
Rep. Mike McLane