

POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE * DALLAS, OREGON 97338-3174
503-623-8173 * FAX 503-623-0896

Commissioners

CRAIG A. POPE
MIKE AINSWORTH
JENNIFER L. WHEELER

GREGORY P. HANSEN
Administrative Officer

February 11, 2014

RE: HB 4134

To Whom It May Concern:

The Polk County Board of Commissioners have reviewed HB 4134 in its current form and like many other counties has serious concerns about the changes in the funding model for the Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) grant stream.

Our primary concern relates to changing the formula from the current legislatively mandated minimum grant format to a competitive process. Not only does the newly proposed funding format put rural counties at a severe disadvantage due to a lack of staff to address grant-writing proposals for special funding streams, it also jeopardizes a designed delivery system that already works in counties throughout the State.

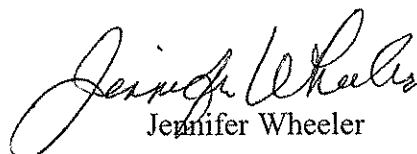
In Polk County we utilize JCP dollars to fund our Sanction Court program. Sanction Court is a community based program which addresses first time juvenile offenders. This program serves 75-100 youth on any given day, and has had a substantial impact on preventing these youth from penetrating the juvenile justice system further. The impact this program has had on our youth and their families is immeasurable, not to mention the fiscal savings that has been generated as a result of this early intervention.

The new proposed funding mechanism risks destroying the foundations of our Sanction Court program, along with many similar programs throughout the State. Once these programs are destroyed, the increased cost associated with addressing juvenile offenders will skyrocket.

In conclusion, the Polk County Board of Commissioners supports continuing with the status quo involving JCP funding, which directly benefits our Juvenile Department in preventing and reducing juvenile crime. Our Board urges that further discussions occur on HB 4134 and not to pass legislation that impacts JCP funding.

Sincerely,
POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Craig Pope, Chair


Jennifer Wheeler


Mike Ainsworth