Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon (7301

Dear Chair Prozanski:

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) supports House Bill 4037.

Statute currently provides for sheriff departments to enter into agreements with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to transport young persons convicted in adult court directly to an OYA youth correction facility without first delivering the young person to DOC. HB 4037 amends current statute to allow sheriff departments to enter into agreements with county juvenile departments or OYA to conduct the transfer.

OYA youth correction facilities have staff specially trained to work with adolescents and young adults, both at intake and in longer term treatment housing units. Physical screenings, mental status examinations, and suicide risk assessments are conducted within the first hour of intake by professionals as required by the National Commission of Correctional Healthcare. Because of the nature of youth correction facilities, there isn't the possibility for young offenders to be exposed to older adult offenders at intake.

The OYA has an already-existing network of trained staff who transport offenders committed by juvenile courts to youth correction facilities. The agency does not anticipate that the addition of transporting young DOC inmates would have an appreciable fiscal impact. The bill, as written, also provides the flexibility for local county juvenile departments to transport these offenders to OYA youth correction facilities.

Because OYA facilities are best equipped to provide intake screenings to adolescents and young persons committed to incarceration and because the agency has an already-existing transport network, OYA supports HB 4037.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Cox
Assistant Director