



OREGON AFSCME

1400 TANDEM AVE. NE • SALEM, OR 97301
503-370-2522 • 1-800-521-5954 • FAX 503-370-7725
www.oregonafscme.com

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To Members of the Ways and Means Committee on Public Safety:

As AFSCME officers representing Oregon Youth Authority's Juvenile Parole and Probation Officers and Juvenile Parole and Probation Assistants (AFSCME Local 191), we are writing to register our support for the funding levels proposed in the Governor's 2015-17 Recommended Budget for the Oregon Youth Authority. We also urge the Legislature to fully fund the OYA 10-year Strategic Plan for Facilities.

The full implementation of the agency's Youth Reformation System is critical to ensure the right youth receive the right services for right length of time. AFSCME supports this initiative as it both maximizes public resources, safeguards public safety, and ensures opportunities for youth reformation. AFSCME also strongly supports OYA's cultural initiative known as Positive Human Development. Many of our members assisted in the development of this culture change initiative and we are proud of their work. As parole and probation officers, we support focusing on youth as resources rather than victims or villains.

AFSCME also fully supports the OYA 10-year Strategic Plan for Facilities. Youth reformation requires sound facilities and programming space that supports the developmental needs of adolescents and young adults, while ensuring a safe and secure environment for staff and community. We believe the 10-year Strategic Plan accomplishes that.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support for the OYA's 2015-2017 Budget. We urge you to do everything in your power to enable the Oregon Youth Authority to continue its momentum to implement data-driven and research informed practices that benefit Oregon's most at risk youth and our communities.

Very truly yours,

Joseph L. Chocoma - President Local 191

[Signature] V.P. Local 191

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