

The Honorable Chip Shields, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair  
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB 5542, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) budget and bond funding for OYA's 10-Year Strategic Facilities Plan. OYA protects the public by holding youth accountable and providing a safe environment for evidenced-based treatment services, education and reformation.

By way of introduction, I am the Chair for the Capital Projects Advisory Board. The CPAB provides public review of proposed capital projects of all state agencies (except the Department of Higher Education). CPAB advises the Director of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Facilities Division or designee on:

- Long-range facility plans that agencies submit to DAS.
- The condition of facilities, maintenance schedules, and options for new facilities (This applies to existing and proposed facilities within the class called major construction or acquisition in the Governor's budget).
- Agency plans to lease facilities of 10,000 square feet or larger for ten years or more.
- Agency plans to build or buy a building of 10,000 or more square feet.

In evaluating a capital project or major lease, the Board considers:

- The agency's mission and long-range facilities plans.
- Effective use of existing and proposed building space.
- If all reasonable alternatives have been explored by the agency.
- The condition of occupied and unoccupied building space.
- The agency's plan for asset protection, including operation, maintenance, and repair.
- The ability of the agency to reasonably maintain and operate all its facilities

Over the last budget cycle, and with the support of the Legislature, OYA has redeployed its existing funding to launch the Youth Reformation System, a predictive analysis model to inform decisions at all levels of Oregon's juvenile justice system. The model uses juvenile data in Oregon's unique Juvenile Justice Information System to create better outcomes for youth in terms of returning to society ready to take part in a productive, healthy, crime-free life. The model, in turn, reduces victimization and reduces taxpayer expense.

OYA has also managed within its existing resources to launch a comprehensive culture change initiative known as Positive Human Development. PHD is Oregon's strength based take on the developmental model of Juvenile Justice, a nationally recognized best practice. Under the PHD approach high expectations and accountability are the outgrowth of safety and security and caring and supportive relationships. Maintaining funding levels for OYA will help the agency continue these transformational efforts to the benefit of the youth they serve and the safety of the public.

Finally, OYA, pursuant to legislative direction last session, completed a 10 year facilities strategic plan that creates a path to consolidate and update physical environments that serve

Oregon's most at risk youth. Funding the strategic plan will also bring the agency's physical plants in line with best practices that research shows deliver positive outcomes for youth and public safety.

I urge to you do everything you can to help continue OYA's momentum. It is imperative that the state maintain the OYA budget for public safety and reformation and allow OYA to continue the work its doing that will continue to protect the public and have meaningful impacts for education, prevention and economic development for Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denny Nielsen", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Denny Nielsen, Chair  
Capital Projects Advisory Board