



WASCO COUNTY

Molly Rogers
Director

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

Juvenile Justice Division
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Public Testimony on SB475

February 26, 2015

Thank you for this opportunity to present public testimony in support of SB475. I am here today representing the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association and the regional juvenile detention facility located in The Dalles, Oregon.

This bill brought before you today is based on several years of working together with local education providers, Oregon Department of Education, and local juvenile detention facilities within local juvenile departments. Within juvenile detention facilities there are two distinct populations for the purposes of educational funding, but the populations are not separate or distinct within the daily population for all additional services or housing.

Population:

- There are two populations of youth served in local juvenile detention facilities, youth placed in detention and youth placed in treatment programs referred to in Statute as Youth Care Centers.
- Youth in detention have average lengths of stay between 7-16 days –
 - Education provided through a contracted provider with Oregon Department of Education.
 - Youth are both pre-adjudicated and post-adjudication
- Youth in Youth Care Centers have average lengths of stays between 90-120 days –
 - Education is the responsibility of the local school district in which the juvenile detention facility is located.
 - Youth are ordered into the program post-adjudication
 - Youth in the NORCOR Youth Care Center represent 16 county jurisdictions (Hood River County to the Idaho Border)

Benefits of SB475:

- Creating equality of services for youth with similar profiles housed in local detention facilities; regardless of the program they are enrolled,
- Increasing the number of education days for youth placed in longer term treatment programs within the secure structure of a detention facility,
- Streamlining the contracting process to reduce the possibility of conflicting educational services,



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- Reducing possibility for administrative overhead costs being removed from overall dollars dedicated to direct instructional services.

Current – What we are trying to address:

- Currently the structure separates education within the juvenile detentions facilities.
- Places additional administrative requirements for education programs for youth.
- Creates a risk each time the Request for Proposals is opened that two separate and conflicting districts may have a role in the education system within a detention facility.

Statement from North Wasco County School District #21 Superintendent:

North Wasco County School District is in support of SB 475 -

SB 475 would provide equitable funds for education to all of the students in the detention program. Currently we provide 220 days for all students, but for some of the students we only receive funding for 180 days. SB475 would correct this issue so that we would have funding for all of the students to receive 220 days.

I appreciate your time and attention to this population that is often already disconnected or at serious risk of dropping out of all education systems. Detention facilities and Youth Care Centers located in detention offer very small classrooms and opportunities for youth to re-connect and find success.

I really appreciate the time you have allowed me to testify and share the importance of supporting SB475

Sincerely,

Molly Rogers