

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

Re: Senate Bill 501

Chair Gelser and members of Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood, I am Tracey Freeman, Senior Manager of Probation and Accountability Services at Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Juvenile Services Division. I would like to submit testimony in support of SB 501.

Multnomah County receives Gang Transition Services (GTS) funds from the Oregon Youth Authority to support program and services implemented by Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Services Division and the coordinated response of law enforcement through the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET). Multnomah County Gang Transition Services is the only juvenile criminal justice funding program focused on youth of color on probation.

The goals of GTS funds are to reduce juvenile crime and to reduce the over-representation of minority youth from Multnomah County committed to OYA, keeping youth within their own family and community. The passage of SB 501 would provide continued funding to support EMGET.

The work accomplished through EMGET is done in close partnership with a variety of agencies and organizations, such as the City of Gresham, Gresham's Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, Multnomah County District Attorney's office, the Latino Network, and Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, to name a few. This working partnership has resulted in a number of opportunities to address these issues.

- Multnomah County and the City of Gresham submitted a joint application for a federal Promise Zone designation that could result in improvements to the community around education, job creation and crime reduction.
- Multnomah County and the City of Gresham also partnered in an application to be one of six cities to receive a National League of Cities grant to improve juvenile justice. The team is currently in Washington DC for the first technical assistance session.
- A number of partners worked together to begin implementing the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention comprehensive gang model to help develop solutions to the gang issue that affects areas such as East County.
- A number of partners are also working together to launch a police diversion pilot that will deliver culturally specific, wrap-around services to gang involved youth and their families in East County.

Funding for EMGET allows these partnerships to address issues such as crime, employment, law enforcement and livability issues in Gresham and East Multnomah County. Multnomah County recognizes that gang members do not know or respect specific municipal boundaries, and that the successful efforts of the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team help decrease gang activity in other parts

of the region and the state by ensuring that it is stopped there and not exported or expanded in other communities. We ask that you support the passage SB 501 to continue this valuable funding.

Submitted by:

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