

## Commissioner Judy Shiprack

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
Phone: (503) 988-5217  
Email: district3@multco.us

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Oregon House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
March 3, 2015  
House Bill 2031

Chair Keny-Guyer and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering House Bill 2031, legislation designed to improve the lives of at-risk youth and their families. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with Marion County on this pilot project. Multnomah County has worked with the Oregon Youth Authority on this issue over the past year aside from this specific legislation, and we are pleased with the chance to expand the partnership.

The economic and social benefits we realize by avoiding incarceration are significant. Our experience tells us adult offenders often have prior contact with the criminal justice system when they are juveniles. Policy makers have worked for years to direct resources upstream where we can divert at-risk kids from the harms of greater penetration into the system. While we have made progress, there is still more to be done.

Intensive in-home service is another tool we can use in our efforts. Keeping kids in their homes and engaged with professionals working with the entire family is a better allocation of resources, has a positive impact on youth development, and leads to better outcomes. It provides the opportunity for social workers to connect with the specific justice involved youth, their parents, and siblings. This holistic social services approach is sound, common sense public policy.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Shiprack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Judy Shiprack  
Multnomah County Commissioner