



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: House Bill 2313-A4

Chair Prozanski and members of Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Colette Peters, Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of the dash-four amendments to HB 2313A and answer any questions.

What the Bill Does:

The dash-four amendments to HB 2313A would permit the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and county juvenile departments to disclose and provide copies of certain juvenile records to DOC for the purpose of exercising custody or supervision of offenders who are committed to the legal and physical custody of DOC.

Background Information:

DOC staff are currently allowed to access OYA records concerning those offenders who are serving their DOC sentence in the physical custody of OYA. Given the strict confidentiality of juvenile records, this is limited to only the information pertinent to a juvenile's incarceration resulting from being convicted as an adult.

Access to these records is essential in order to adequately case manage adult offenders who have previous juvenile records. If the bill passes, access would include:

1. DOC offenders who are returned to DOC (from OYA) or who have aged out of OYA and into DOC (because they are turning age 25 and have additional time to serve on their sentence);
2. Juvenile offenders who committed a crime at OYA, resulting in a DOC sentence; and
3. DOC offenders who, in some cases, may have had a juvenile record relevant to their current custody cycle.

Access to juvenile records will ensure the best continuation of care for adult offenders, as well as ensure they receive thorough assessments for purposes including, but not limited to:

- Classification
- Housing
- Work assignments
- Programming assignments

- Sex offender evaluation upon release
- Credit for time served
- Risk of self harm
- Transition and re-entry/release planning

Since HB 2425 did not move out of committee this session, DOC has worked collaboratively to come to agreement with stakeholders on this amendment. These stakeholders include OYA, community corrections, county juvenile departments, and Youth, Rights & Justice.

Requested Action:

If passed, this legislation would give OYA and county juvenile department directors the authority to grant DOC access to juvenile records of offenders who are in, or entering into, DOC custody on an adult conviction. For the reasons explained above, the Department of Corrections asks this committee to vote the dash-four amendments to HB 2313A out of committee with a do pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

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