

Michelle DeShazer
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February 11, 2016

To the Oregon House Judiciary Committee:

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Representative Brent Barton
Representative Mitch Greenlick
Representative Wayne Krieger
Representative Ann Lininger, Vice-Chair
Representative Andy Olson, Vice-Chair
Representative Bill Post
Representative Sherrie Sprenger
Representative Jessica Vega Pederson

Re: Letter of Support for HB 4123

I had an opportunity to attend the House Judiciary Committee hearing on 2/3/16 when Representative Lew Frederick introduced HB 4123. I was impressed with the thoughtful discussion by the Committee members and the comments of those who testified.

I retired in the fall of 2011 from the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice where I had been employed as a Juvenile Court Counselor.

In my more than 28 years of working with youth involved in the justice system, I saw many circumstances in which the repayment of money owed became a barrier to a young person's progress in their community. The lack of employment opportunities, combined with a lack of job and/or social skills, made it difficult for many young persons to meet their financial obligations.

The Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division offers a program, through Project PayBack, as a restorative justice opportunity for young offenders to work off restitution and other court costs via community service. This approach is an innovative way to meet victim and community needs while supporting a youth offender's successful in the community.

I believe that HB 4123 is an equally innovative approach and I wholeheartedly ask for your support of this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Michelle DeShazer