



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Criminal Justice Commission

885 Summer St NE
Salem, OR 97301-2522
TEL: 503-378-4830
FAX: 503-378-4861

Michael Schmidt
Executive Director

The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
The Honorable Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

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Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of the Governor's recommended budget for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) in SB 5042. OYA does great work in many facets of their operation, including the development and implementation of the Youth Reformation System (YRS); the initiative known as Positive Human Development (PHD); and their work on the 10-year facilities plan. But today I am writing to tell you about their collaboration with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

In 2013 Oregon adopted a new definition of recidivism in HB 3194. That legislation directed the CJC to implement and report out on recidivism in rates in Oregon by arrest, conviction and incarceration for a new crime in the adult population. After almost 2 years of work the CJC published its first adult recidivism report. Even before that report had been formally finalized OYA had been in communication with the CJC to see if we could collaborate on doing the same type of analysis on the juvenile system.

Although it may sound simple to analyze arrest, conviction and incarceration rates, in fact it takes combining multiple data sets, determining what a qualifying event is, recording in meticulous detail the methodology utilized so that subsequent reports and researchers can learn from the analysis, and above all else it takes an incredible amount of time working with, listening to, and educating stakeholders. The OYA has a phenomenal research team that worked with the CJC step by step. They were, and continue to be excellent collaborators.

The report can be found here:

<http://www.oregon.gov/cjc/SAC/Documents/Juvenile%20System%20Recidivism%20Analysis%20Final%20Draft%2072816.pdf>

I urge to you do everything you can to help continue OYA's momentum. It is imperative that the state maintain the OYA budget for public safety and reformation and allow OYA to continue the work its doing that will continue to protect the public and have meaningful impacts for education, prevention and economic development for Oregon.

Sincerely,
Mike Schmidt

Executive Director
Criminal Justice Commission

