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Attn: Public Safety Subcommittee of Ways and Means  
Rep. Duane Stark  
Rep. Jeff Barker  
Rep. John Huffman  
Rep. Carla Piluso  
Rep. Tawna Sanchez  
Sen. Jackie Winters  
Sen. Lew Frederick  
Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

Dear Committee Members,

I write this letter in support of the Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) 2017 Legislative Priorities including funding to staff its important programs such as Youth Reformation System, Positive Human Development, Young Women's Transition Program, funding to support its long-term facilities plan, and making SB 82 law.

Over the last year, in my role as Professor/Director of the Criminal Justice Reform Clinic at Lewis & Clark Law School, my students and I represented two OYA youths in their clemency petitions. In addition to getting to know these youths' lives and experiences at OYA, we had the great pleasure of working with numerous OYA staff and saw first-hand the importance of OYA being well-funded. I was impressed by the amount of care and commitment OYA staff has to the success of the youth in their custody and care, by its cutting-edge approach to juvenile justice, and the important programming and opportunities available to the youth in its facilities.

OYA has a proven track record of having an enormous impact on the lives of Oregon's most at-risk youths. OYA needs continued and additional funding to support its current and future programs to hold youth accountable, reduce recidivism and victimization, and keep our communities safe.

I encourage you to support OYA's 2017 Legislative Priorities. Thank you for your time and commitment to these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aliza B. Kaplan".

Aliza B. Kaplan  
Professor and Director, Criminal Justice Reform Clinic