



C. LANE BORG
Executive Director

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES, INC.

February 21, 2017

Sen. Winter, Co-Chair
Rep. Stark, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
Oregon Legislature
2017 Session

Re: Support of OYA Budget resolution

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I write in support of OYA Budget resolution. Simply put as long as we have Ballot Measure 11 we must have a supported Oregon Youth Authority. Programing for youth in OYA has proven outcomes that benefit both the young people in the system as well as society.

This year my office hired a recently incarcerated youth. Fortunately he did not time out to DOC but was a DOC inmate at OYA. We also represented him on the original charge. I have been able to see how he was when he went into the system, it was an Assault II violent felony and now how he is as a recent parolee. The transformation is amazing and I can assure you that our budget is not so luxurious that I could just carry him. He will have to perform and earn his way, but I am hopeful that his programing at OYA has prepared him for this challenge. This would not have happened without good programs at OYA that need to be funded.

I am aware that the budget short fall is looming large in Salem, but we should favor funding of what works not just thin the soup to keep everyone alive, OYA works and deserves funding.

Sincerely,

C. Lane Borg

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