



DATE: February 22, 2017

TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee

FR: Lynne Schroeder, Washington County Juvenile Department Director

RE: HB 5042 Funding of the Oregon Youth Authority

Co-Chairs Winters and Stark and members of the committee:

As the Director of Washington County Juvenile Department, I would like to share with you the importance of the Basic Service and Diversion Dollars that come to Washington County through the Oregon Youth Authority.

Over the past few days, you have heard about the OYA's commitment to make sure youth in the Juvenile Justice system receive the appropriate treatment and supervision in the most effective way and in the location that is most likely to be effective. Washington County is working collaboratively with OYA in using the Youth Reformation System tools to help determine which youth could be effectively treated in the community and which youth require a higher level of service in either residential or correctional placement.

At the local level, we have continued to apply these best practices principles of basing supervision and treatment on a youth's risk and need levels. Youth with the highest level of risk receive multiple contacts per week to ensure they are engaged in treatment, attending school, and avoiding delinquent peers. In addition, our staff are trained to provide one-on-one cognitive behavioral interventions with these high risk youth. They meet weekly while youth are in the middle of their day to day life challenges, teaching them skills to be able to handle frustrations and stay in school, to handle their impulses and not be reactive, to set goals and eventually obtain jobs. The youth are supported to create a law abiding life within their communities in a safely supervised way.

In Washington County, the funding we receive through the Basic and Diversion dollars pay for staff to provide this supervision and training. Staff work with gang involved youth and youth who have sexually offended. We work with youth who have significant mental health and trauma issues: All with very high success. Of the youth we worked with in 2015, 78% did not receive another referral in the next 12 months. Washington County has done this while staying almost 25% under the state's allocation of correctional beds for our County. The Basic and Diversion funding for these services has been an effective reinvestment in local services that are a deterrent to juvenile crime and a decrease in the use of costly residential and correctional services.

A reduction in these services will most certainly result in more youth being referred to OYA residential and correctional programming at a time when those services are being reduced. I urge you to maintain current funding for Basic and Diversion Dollars.

Juvenile Department

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