



WOODBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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February 16, 2017

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

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) as it enters the 2017-2019 biennium budget process. As you may be aware, OYA is a key partner of the Woodburn Police Department since the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility resides within the City of Woodburn.

OYA's proposed budget and priorities set a clear path for improving outcomes for reducing victimization and maintaining safe communities. The path to the future is not an easy one for some youth. For young people who exhibit criminal behavior and as an example, make poor choices, are the product of unstable families, lack necessary support and infrastructure, in need of specialized treatment, or may feel culturally excluded, OYA provides that necessary support and infrastructure giving youth an opportunity to change their behavior. For youth needing additional accountability, OYA provides an environment for reformation that keeps youth and our communities safe.

Please know OYA has my full support as a public safety partner. While fulfilling the mission of OYA takes considerable funding, I clearly understand that there is only so much money to go around. As both a law enforcement leader in Oregon and a member of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, I believe it is important that this public safety sub-committee give OYA's proposed budget serious consideration based on their stated priorities. Maintaining funding levels for OYA will help the agency continue these transformational efforts to the benefit of the youth they serve and the safety of the public. Please contact me directly should you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. FERRARIS
Chief of Police

c: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director – Oregon Association Chiefs of Police