

February 16, 2017

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

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB 5042, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) budget and bond funding for the continuation of OYA's 10-Year Strategic Facilities Plan. OYA protects the public by holding youth accountable and providing a safe environment for evidenced-based treatment services, education and reformation.

I am in support of this bill because it will directly impact the services that I am currently receiving. For example, Hope Partnership that is involved inside the fence working with youth. Hope brings in the community, transition services, and self-help by teaching us skills.

For me Hope Partnership has allowed me to grow mentally and emotionally to the person I am today. Taking groups through Hope Partnership, I have gained skills such as public speaking, radio broadcasting, field recording, non-violent communication and education.

Without Hope Partnership I could have easily gone down a path of negativity. In these groups I found a sense of purpose and they bring out the gifts I already had inside out to the community of MacLaren. Cut anything you want except Hope Partnership!

Sincerely,

E.V.
Youth at MYCF