



2-22-17

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 and my testimony are in support of SB 5042, the Oregon Youth Authority budget and bond funding for the continuation of OYA's 10-Year Strategic Facilities Plan.

My name is Dr. Randy R. Butler. I am the Senior Pastor at Salem Evangelical Church. I am a volunteer for the Oregon Youth Authority. The bottom line for your budget considerations as related to O.Y.A. consists of names and faces of children who need our help as Oregonians. O.Y.A.'s philosophy, practices, policies and procedures reflect a philosophy of P.H.D. or positive human development. With this philosophy in place O.Y.A. treat boys and girls not as animals but human beings.

I lead a community group on Tuesdays and a trauma group every Saturday. I attend M.D.T.'s which are placement assessment meetings with the boys. I counsel, encourage and coach these boys every week. For some, I am their religious contact around the State of Oregon receiving phone calls from time to time. I receive and send correspondence with these boys regularly.

I hold them, cry with them, laugh with them, play with them, believe in them and learn from them. These children come often times from families that are broken, dysfunctional, and absolutely unable to gain an upper hand in life.

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Randy R Butler  
SENIOR PASTOR  
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O.Y.A. have some of the most talented, gifted, caring, competent employees I have ever witnessed in an organization from the Director all the way down to those who work in the kitchen. Yes, I work with those in the kitchen in the summer and fall cutting up apples from my trees with the boys to make homemade applesauce. The O.Y.A. employees I work with are professional and well trained leading these children towards rehabilitation and a better life upon their release.

I am at Hillcrest up to 3 times a week. As an Oregonian I am invested in these boys' lives. I give them my best, will you? I have nothing to gain from your financial decisions but I do have something to lose if you make further cuts and ignore requests by the director that are not granted. I am a fiscal conservative and understand the dilemma and pressures you face. However, we are not talking about funding animal shelters and the quality of dog food that should be funded. We are talking about human beings who have names and faces and are receiving real help and treatment and healing from some of the most amazing people this state employs.

I beg you to have the fortitude to fund O.Y.A. with everything they request because we who live with these children on the inside **see their potential with proper treatment** as human beings. This is at the core of what is meant by positive human development. I will pray your funding for O.Y.A. will reflect your humanity on behalf of children who have no voice at all. Thanks for the privilege you gave me to testify.

With deep respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Randy R. Butler".

Dr. Randy R. Butler,

Senior Pastor, Salem Evangelical Church

Salem, OR