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February 28th, 2017

The Honorable Representative Margaret Doherty
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE, H-282
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to provide support for the passage of House Bill 2657. As a private non-profit organization who works directly with hundreds of Oregon's Opportunity Youth each year, Northwest Youth Corps recognizes the need for a coordinated and collaborative approach to creating opportunities for our out of school youth. We see the formation of a task force as an important step in the right direction of defining clear pathways for our out of school youth to become re-engaged.

Over the past 34 years, our success with out of school youth ages 15 to 26 years old has relied on creative partnerships between the public, private, and philanthropic sectors. The Northwest Youth Corps model combines paid service learning, training, education, and life skills development. I would be happy to serve on the future task force, and be a resource for its work.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeff Parker

Executive Director