



## **Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association**

*Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments*

www.ojdda.org

- Torri Lynn, President
- Joe Ferguson, President Elect
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### **OJDDA Supports SB 368**

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association supports the passage of SB 368, relating to health insurance coverage for pre-adjudicated youth who are detained in local juvenile detention facilities. In Oregon, all 36 counties are served by 11 locally operated juvenile detention facilities. Each of these facilities use best practices in assessing the medical and dental needs of youth entering the system, and often the qualified staff identify immediate needs that should have been addressed in the community. The needs include medical, mental health, pharmaceutical, and dental needs.

Currently, the costs for the identified needs are the financial responsibility of the local jurisdictions, which are not financially equipped to manage costs within the health care system. SB 368 closes the loophole for providing healthcare services to current members of the covered plan. The fact that the covered members are pre-adjudicated youth in detention should not change their status for receiving care as part of their coverage. From a preventative care model the services provided during the youth's short detention stay will help reduce higher cost services including emergency room usage in the future.

Youth coming into custody often have immediate medical, mental health and dental needs because they have not been stable in the community. The time in custody is relatively short, but for the purposes of their care it is a very important window to access needed services. Research has shown that having medical and dental issues are significant barriers to youth's success in settings like public schools and community workforces.

Please support SB 368 to sustain insurance supports for pre-adjudicated youth in our local detention centers.

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