



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 2248

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Heidi Steward, Assistant Director of the Offender Management and Rehabilitation Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of the dash-one amendments to HB 2248 and answer questions.

What the Bill Does:

The dash-one amendments to HB 2248 will extend the sunset authorizing Oregon Youth Authority and county juvenile departments to disclose and provide copies of reports and other materials to DOC for individuals in the department's legal and physical custody.

Background Information:

DOC staff are currently allowed access to juvenile records as authorized under ORS 419a.257, however legal authority to access these records is set to sunset June 30, 2017.

Access to juvenile records is essential in order to adequately case manage individuals sentenced to the legal custody of the DOC who have previous juvenile records. This includes individuals:

- Committed to DOC and in the physical custody of OYA;
- Entering DOC directly from OYA; or
- Under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at the time of committing their adult offense.

Issues Addressed by the Bill:

This bill allows DOC continued access to juvenile records, ensuring the best continuity of care and case management for those in the care and custody of DOC.

In response to recent conversations with the Oregon Youth Authority and County Juvenile Department Directors, we have agreed on amendments to extend the sunset as opposed to repealing it. This will allow additional time to monitor DOC's access to juvenile records.

Requested Action:

For the reasons explained above, the department asks this committee to vote the dash-one amendments to HB 2248 out of committee with a do pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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