



February 8, 2017

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: SB 82

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 82.

Disability Rights Oregon attorney Chris Shank and I have served as members of the OYA Use of Isolation Community Advisory Group since it convened in April 2015. The group has met quarterly to review and advise OYA's on efforts to reduce and prevent the use of isolation.

In the course of the Group's work, we have:

- o Supported OYA's removal of isolation from its "Youth Accountability" rule and policy, as well as its Behavior Matrix, to better align with the agency's policy prohibiting the use of isolation as a punishment.
- o Endorsed OYA's strategy to focus initially on thoughtful implementation of culture shift in order to support sustainable change around use of isolation and appropriately use any additional resources.
- o Recommended review of due process hearing language in OYA's isolation policy to be consistent with the agency's practice or intended use of isolation as a safety intervention only.
- o Endorsed and advised on SB 82 to codify policy around prohibiting use of isolation as punishment.

Disability Rights Oregon commends OYA for its openness to working with us and other advocacy groups. We understand that SB 82 is an important piece of a comprehensive effort to address the use of isolation and develop alternatives that will achieve better outcomes for youth and staff.

We urge the committee to move SB 82 to the Senate floor for passage.