



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 20, 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). HB 2248 is one of DOC's concepts, and I am here to testify in support of the bill and answer questions.

What the Bill Does:

As introduced, House Bill 2248 removes the sunset date on temporary law and makes permanent law 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 light of recent conversations with the Oregon Youth Authority and County Juvenile Department Directors, we have agreed on amendments to extend the sunset as opposed to removing it. This will allow additional time to monitor DOC's access to juvenile records.

For the reasons above, DOC supports HB 2248.

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

Submitted by:

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