



KLAMATH COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

March 1, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Sub-Committee on Public Safety
Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Carla Piluso, Co-Chair

Re: Oregon Youth Authority Budget for 2019-21

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Winters, Representative Piluso, and Sub-Committee members:

Please be advised that since 1996, I have served as Director and Detention Manager of the Klamath County Juvenile Department. From 2014 to 2018, I served on the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, chairing OGEC in 2017.

Oregon's rural counties rely on the Oregon Youth Authority to provide leadership, funding, and an inspiring vision of youth development motivating our statewide juvenile justice system.

The Oregon Youth Authority provides:

- Basic Service and Diversion program funding so rural counties can successfully supervise youth offenders in their home communities, diverting them from corrections. Any reduction in these funds will cause counties to send more youth into state custody.
- OYA Community Services provide guidance to 40 community-based programs that prevent hundreds of youth from escalating into corrections by funding beds for substance abuse treatment, intensive residential care for heavily traumatized youth, and independent living/skill building programs. Reductions in beds will undermine prevention, causing more youth to escalate into state corrections systems for youth and adults.
- The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) that networks all juvenile justice agencies into one common data-sharing entity – literally the backbone of the juvenile system.

We are seeing increasing numbers of youth with profound trauma backgrounds entering the system. They need intensive treatment, increased protection, and enlightened care in order to become productive adults defining Oregon's future. Please support and increase OYA's resources to network with rural communities for prevention and compassionate care of youth.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Golden".

Dan Golden, Director
Klamath County Juvenile Department