

O.Y.A. testimony Ways + Means 2019

My name is Randy Butler. I volunteer at Machaven. I have been a volunteer for several years. I have the privilege of watching O.Y.A. youth respond to investing in their lives. They respond remarkably well.

I am a fiscal conservative wanting to save in government where money can be saved; spend in government where money needs to be spent; and invest in government where investments yield a higher return than face value. The latter of the three is where I land with O.Y.A. In fact, investing in O.Y.A. takes the face value of money and lifts out of the fog the faces of O.Y.A.

I see the faces of O.Y.A. They are employees unbelievably dedicated to the faces of our youth (yes, they are all our children). I see the faces of the youth regularly. ~~Remember~~ I can say with certainty, that after a session with a unit, or a one on one visit with a youth in any of the 13 units, or visits in other parts of the facility your decisions should not be based on saving money as these youth are priceless! Your decisions should not be based on throwing some money at a request for that is irresponsible. Rather, I urge you to invest in OUR youth. The vast majority ^{of youth} will be released back into our neighborhoods. What goes around comes around. What you grant them today may well be indicative of what they give back to Oregon.

This is neither an issue of revenue, nor of spending.
Simply put, this must only be viewed as an issue of
investment. The only sure thing in investing is if one does
not invest. The return is guaranteed to be zero! As
Oregonians, we must do better!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindy H. Butler
(O.Y.A. Volunteer)
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