



February 28, 2019

**The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair**

**The Honorable Carla Piluso, Co-Chair**

**Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety**

**900 Court Street**

**Salem, OR 97301**

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am one of two external members of OYA's Audit Committee. The Committee plays a key role, standing at the intersection of management, external auditors, and internal auditors. It helps ensure the effectiveness of governance, risk management, and compliance processes over strategic, financial, operations, and compliance objectives. An agency not governed by a board or commission, OYA is unique in incorporating audit committee membership that is entirely independent of state government. This clearly demonstrates the agency's high expectations of transparency, integrity and accountability, as well as its commitment to continuous improvement through objective assessment and consulting. I am proud to serve an agency and state that recognizes and establishes internal audit as a cornerstone of governance.

As noted in the recent Secretary of State audit report, [Opportunities Exist to Increase the Impact of State Agency Internal Audit Functions Report No. 2018-25](#), OYA's Chief Audit Executive, Jodi Cochran, is an exceptionally qualified professional who "brings value to the agency and leadership in the statewide audit community." She is the agency's only internal audit resource, however. In reviewing the ongoing status of OYA's annual Audit Plan, the Committee and I have regularly noted the lack of resources and ability to capitalize on Jodi's expertise, while broadening organizational impact. In April 2018, the Committee formally requested OYA leadership consider additional internal audit resources during the 19-21 budget development process. OYA's Policy Option Package 114 addressed this request and is supported by the Secretary of State's audit observation of statewide under-resourcing of this vital function. This was however, not funded in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

I support OYA's efforts to continue the Youth Reformation System (YRS) and Positive Human Development (PHD). I support the update of the Juvenile Justice Information System, the underlying data system, that allows for the development of predictive analytic tools and supports many of the internal audit reviews. In addition, I support the agency's efforts to mitigate identified risks through the budget process, from creating alignment between spending and the budget to having adequate resources in the foster care team. However, I must note that overall continuing to help OYA match its spending plan to its services, creating transparency, is foundational to any responsibility or effort they undertake. I hope that you will assist them by making the final move within their budget to align services and spending.

Ultimately, I am honored to support OYA and its internal audit function: adding to OYA's ability to act with integrity, accountability, professionalism, and respect; to monitor and identify operational inefficiencies; and to make informed decisions in accomplishing its mission of protecting the public and reducing crime by holding youth accountable and providing opportunities for rehabilitation in safe environments.

Respectfully,

Cobi Lewis  
SVP, CRA & Community Development  
Umpqua Bank N.A.