



March 10, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Public safety

**RE: Support of the Oregon Youth Authority Biennium Budget FY19-21**

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) budget for the 19-21 biennium. This proposed budget maintains essential current service levels. This funding and additional investment is critical for the success of the youth in the custody of the OYA. These youth often have very high needs and have significant a significant history of trauma.

The OYA has and continues to be a valued partner in working to reduce recidivism, increase safety and accountability for youth in custody, and partner with providers to ensure positive outcomes.

The Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs has close to forty members providing services and supports to youth across Oregon's metro, rural and frontier communities including those in the custody of the OYA. Annually, the Alliances member organizations touch the lives of over 100,000 children and families, and their communities including those youth in the custody of the OYA.

Services provided by both the OYA and the provider system focus on intervention and prevention strategies to support the lives of those being served. Through the use of evidenced-based practices; their future holds promise as a direct result of these services and supports. Research shows that investments early will result in tremendous savings through reductions in poverty, welfare dependence, violence, crime and juvenile justice involvement.

As a result, we'd like to urge you to support the OYA continuing service level for the 19/21 biennium budget.

Royce Bowlin, M.S.  
Executive Director