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State Representative, House District 50
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RE: House Bill 2910

Chair Doherty and members of the committee:

For the record my name is Carla Piluso, and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham.

I have had the honor of attending many, many graduation ceremonies over the years, and there is nothing like the sense of hope and expectation in the air as new graduates go out into the world. When the legislature passed the Oregon Promise grant in 2015, we were recognizing that the young people crossing high school graduation stages around the state represent Oregon's future—and we were investing in our future.

In my days as a police officer, I saw plenty of young people who didn't take a straight path to that graduation, whether because they had problems at home, struggled with addiction, fell in with the wrong crowd, or simply made bad decisions.

But I also saw that those same young people have enormous capacity for growth and change. Every time I meet people in custody at the Oregon Youth Authority or in the Department of Corrections, I meet people who are working hard towards a GED, gaining job skills, keeping in close touch with their family, and looking forward to the life they can build when they get out.

House Bill 2910 breaks down barriers for those in OYA and DOC facilities, giving them a better chance of going to college and making a life after incarceration. I support this bill and ask you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50