

Hello Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Heard, and the members of the Senate Committee for Human Services,

The Oregon Youth Authority is in the process of reviewing SB 825-1. The Oregon Youth Authority contracts with residential providers through BRS (Behavior rehabilitation System) contracts to provide services to youth offenders across Oregon. We do not receive Title IV-E funds as a means to pay for out of home placements. Some of our providers also contract with others that do receive Title IV-E funds. This federal funding is tied to the Families First Act. While this federal act does not apply to OYA or our providers, we know that as some providers serve both DHS and OYA clients, that a portion of their programs will be subject to the Families First Act.

Because of that we have been listening and paying attention to what the Families First Act means to providers in Oregon and the impact to services. We understand the SB 825-1 is a mechanism to address the Families First Act within Oregon Law. While the Oregon Youth Authority and our providers are not subject to the Families First Act, our initial look of SB 825-1 indicates that it does apply to OYA, the adjudicating courts, the process in which we place youth, and our providers. OYA and our providers will review SB 825-1 to see how this changes criteria and costs for providers, OYA, courts and impacts our commitment and placement process for youth offenders committed to our care.

Thank you for your understanding and awareness that OYA needs time to review SB 825-1.

Respectfully,

Christine

Christine Kirk, Public Policy and Government Relations