

Dear Senators,

Thanks for serving. I know you have to wade through TONS of documents, letters, testimony, etc. So I will make this respectfully short.

I am enthusiastically supportive of SB-964, the Strong Families, Resilient Neighborhoods bill. This is a robust opportunity to FUND WHAT WORKS rather than dollars chasing each crisis across the state (Meth, Foster Care, Mental Health, Crime, etc.).

The collaboration of partners that have come together under the Fostering Hope Initiative are getting strong results -- not just reducing foster care in partner neighborhoods (huge), but creating both formal and informal systems that are helping kids and families be strong in many areas, not just reducing abuse and neglect. Comprehensive and systemic change--it works!

SB-964 will allow Oregon taxpayers to invest in something that gets superior ROI for the state--few dollars spent on foster care and other supports. In the early going tax revenues do go down but more than twice that amount will be saved, creating a surplus for Oregon.

You have all the details, and now I've broken my promise by typing too much and keeping it short. Again, I am in full support of SB-964 and so are the 50+ partnerships we work with on a regular basis.

Thanks for serving, and for hearing my testimony--

Sam Skillern

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