

Good morning,

I wish to address the Senate bills regarding sentencing of youth to juvenile court rather than adult court, as well as allowing judges the ability to review youth halfway through their sentences to determine appropriate action.

I taught in Oregon public schools for 30 years, mostly in the Salem Keizer School District. Middle school and high school students, whom I love, sometimes make poor decisions, possibly with serious consequences. However, I would submit that all of us would take back, if we could, certain statements or behaviors in our own past. May that awareness leaven the wisdom of those now in power.

Young people have particularly strong abilities to grow and change, according to brain research and our own observation and experience. Do we not owe society and these particular individuals every opportunity for rehabilitation and success? Our goal is successful citizenship. Punishment, though sometimes appropriate and necessary, is not truly a worthy goal. Let us pass legislation that supports and builds up each of us to our best self. These Senate bills are steps in that direction.

Thank you.

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Sent from my iPhone