

Date: March 25, 2019

Re: Support for SB 969

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Margaret Noel

2941 NW Quimby St.

Portland, OR 97210

Dear Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 969.

As a mother who has raised teenagers, I know first-hand that teens can make errors of judgment that may have serious consequences. A friend's teenage son was charged with a crime that could have sent him to adult prison, but the District Attorney chose to charge him with a less serious crime, because his teachers and adult friends wrote letters saying that he was a responsible and ethical boy with a lot of potential. The judge at the hearing commented on how fortunate he was to have so much support.

SB 969 would allow judges to evaluate the circumstances of all the young people who get into trouble and to decide whether or not they should be charged as adults. Instead of leaving this choice to the District Attorney, it should be put back into the hands of judges. From what I understand, adult prison is very damaging for youth. Keeping young people out of adult prison and helping them to become rehabilitated also would save the state money.

Please vote yes on SB 969. Thank you for your attention and work on this important bill.

Margaret Noel
2941 NW Quimby Street
Portland, OR 97210

503-522-1620 (cell)
mrgtnoel@comcast.net