

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

I am writing you in Support of SB 969:

Put the power back in the hands of judges to decide whether or not a teenager should be tried as a youth or as an adult. To move a

youth to the adult justice system, prosecutors would need to request a special hearing with a judge who would decide where youth are placed.

I am a teacher of junior and senior high school students as well as teacher in community college, state university and Sunday School. Many students with troubled backgrounds have been able to succeed in life with support of concerned adults and I believe a judge could assess an individual's intent and remorse along with potential for rehabilitation through juvenile court. Please vote yes and allow judges to use discretion when dealing with juvenile cases. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of youth in Oregon.

Sincerely yours, Paulette Meyer, Ph.D