

Date: March 26, 2019
RE: Support for SB 969
TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Ann Dudley
2875 SE Grant Street
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Senator Prozanski,

I am writing to urge you and the Senate Judiciary Committee to support SB 969. There is strong evidence in well-documented studies of human development that teenagers do not have fully developed neurological capacities to inhibit impulsive behaviors nor to make sound judgments. As an adoptive parent of a child who barely escaped the Oregon Youth Authority, my son has grown up to be a responsible, law-abiding, employed citizen. In addition to the “normal” difficulties of adolescence, children such as my son, who have spent time in foster care, have a greater chance of getting in trouble with the authorities. Teenagers are not adults. A judge should have the option to keep a youth in the juvenile justice system, where there are greater opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration into a community of support. Please support HB 969.

Thank you for your work on issues of juvenile justice.

Ann Dudley