

YOUTH JUSTICE

POLICY BRIEF FOR THE 2019 LEGISLATURE

A broad coalition in Oregon has been working with experts on youth justice to craft proposals for a more humane youth justice system that focuses on accountability for youth and safety for our communities.

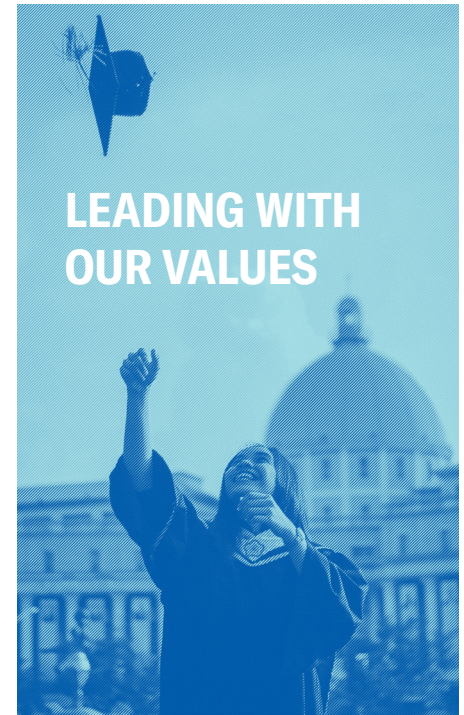
SB 1008 establishes a process where all youth who are convicted in adult court have access to a “Second Look” hearing half way through their sentence. At that hearing, a judge determines whether the youth has taken responsibility for their crime and been rehabilitated, which would allow the remainder of their sentence to be served under community-based supervision, rather than being incarcerated.

SB 969 places youth accused of any crimes in the juvenile justice system instead of the adult justice system. 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.

SB 966 would require an additional review before a youth with a long sentence would be transferred to an adult prison. Currently, Oregon youth who are given long sentences can stay in a youth prison until age twenty-five and are then transferred to an adult prison. This proposal would allow a judge to determine if the 25-year-old has been sufficiently rehabilitated to transfer them to community-based supervision, rather than adult prison.

SB 968 would eliminate life without parole sentences for youth in Oregon by establishing a process to ensure that anyone convicted of a crime when they are under eighteen years old receives a chance for parole after fifteen years of incarceration.

Background: Measure 11 passed over two decades ago at the height of the tough-on-crime era, created harsh penalties, causing youth as young as 15 to be charged and sentenced as adults for certain acts, facing the same mandatory minimum penalties as adults, despite their young age.



Oregonians believe that our youth justice system should focus on prevention and rehabilitation. We value forgiveness and second chances, and should provide youth with the best chance to repair the damage they've caused, while also healing their own trauma and getting them the help they need.

There are four proposals in front of the legislature this session that focus on prevention and rehabilitation for youth in the criminal justice system. We call on leaders in the legislature to enact these critically-needed changes.

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A COALITION OF SUPPORT

OVER 40 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT POLICIES THAT FOCUS ON PREVENTION & REHABILITATION FOR YOUTH, INCLUDING...

