

NAACP

Eugene ~ Springfield Branch

www.NAACPLanecounty.org

Date: March 28, 2019

To: The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair; The Honorable Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair; Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Eugene/Springfield NAACP

Re: Support for youth justice reform, SB 1008, SB 969, SB 968, SB 966

My name Eric Richardson and I represent the Eugene/Springfield NAACP. Our mission is to eliminate race based discrimination and work for the dignity and equality of all people. As advocates for African American rights we ask for your support in creating a more just and balanced society. The passage of Measure 11 at the height of the tough-on-crime era, has caused 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. We feel this measure has caused great harm for many youth who have no sense of a pathway to redemption, or healing for ongoing trauma caused by poverty and other factors. There are four proposals in front of the legislature this session that focus on prevention and rehabilitation for youth in the criminal justice system that we support:

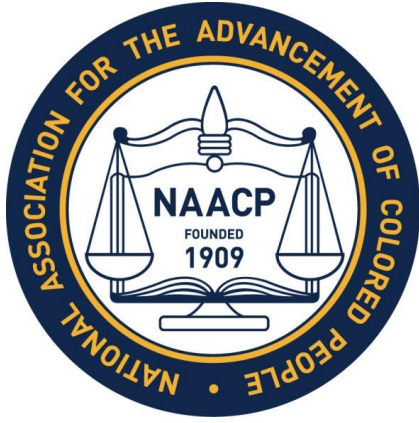
- **SB 969 (End Automatic Waiver into Adult Court)**
- **SB 966 (Hearing Before Transfer to DOC)**
- **SB 1008 (Second Look Hearings)**
- **SB 968 (End Juvenile Life Without Parole)**
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On behalf of the members of the Eugene/Springfield NAACP we request that this committee move these proposals forward as soon as possible. Although we believe youth in the justice system should be held accountable for their actions, we also know the value of forgiveness and second chances; let's support rehabilitation, education and opportunity, not prison.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eric Richardson
President Eugene/Springfield NAACP



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