

# Oregon Student Association



**Date:** March 28, 2019

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

**From:** Perla Alvarez, Oregon Student Association

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

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Perla Alvarez and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association. OSA is a student-led, student run organization that represents 130,000 students across the state. We work towards a more affordable and accessible higher education. OSA believes that Oregon should have a more humane youth justice system that focuses on accountability for youth and safety for our communities.

The Oregon Student Association supports SB 969, SB 966, SB 1008 and SB 968, which will create a more just and humane system that will focus on prevention, rehabilitation, and healing for our Oregon youth. OSA believes in second chances and youth who commit a crime should be given the opportunity to repair any damage they have caused.

Research shows that young people have a great ability to grow and change and that treatment and education programs, not prisons, are the best way to help youth make better choices, stay on a path towards success, and get back on track when they need help. With the passage of these measures, more youth will have the opportunity to attend higher education, apply for scholarships and contribute to Oregon's economy.

Youth in the justice system should be held accountable for their actions. But we all know the value of forgiveness and second chances. When young people take responsibility for their actions, we need to help them make a positive contribution to society through rehabilitation, education and opportunity, not prison.

The Oregon Student Association encourages this committee to please support SB 969, SB 966, SB 1008 and SB 968. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Perla Alvarez  
Legislative Director  
Oregon Student Association

## OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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