



# RIGHT ON CRIME

YES on  
SB 1008

*Right on Crime is a national campaign of the Texas Public Policy Foundation,  
in partnership with the American Conservative Union Foundation and Prison Fellowship,  
that supports conservative solutions  
for reducing crime, restoring victims, reforming offenders,  
and lowering taxpayer costs.*

**As the federal government and states across the country move to right-size their prison system to reduce both crime and costs to taxpayers, Oregon has the opportunity to join the chorus of common sense, cost effective youth justice legislation by passing Senate Bill 1008.**

While children should be held accountable for their actions, every parent knows that children are not the same as adults. Their understanding of risk and consequences are underdeveloped, and they often have more difficulty resisting pressure from peers and adults. But every parent also knows that children have a unique capacity for positive growth and change.

In just the last five years, conservative states like North Dakota, Utah, and Arkansas have led the way in youth sentencing reform, but Oregon lags behind. Oregon's current system of imposing excessive sentences on children ignores what adolescent development research has well documented.

Juvenile programs, like those at the Oregon Youth Authority, can and have prevented delinquent youth from becoming career criminals, which means safer neighborhoods and more productive citizens. Unfortunately, that investment is often wasted when youth transfer to adult prisons. And the bottom-line is that excessive youth lockups are a drain on state budgets.

**Right now, Oregon has the opportunity to join conservative-leaning states with sensible youth justice legislation in SB 1008.** The bill does not automatically shorten sentences for any youth, but it will allow a judge to determine if a youth should be held accountable in the juvenile justice system instead of the adult system. It creates opportunities for youth to have their sentences reviewed after serving considerable time in prison and ensures appropriate notification for crime victims.

**SB 1008 promotes fair, cost-effective, age-appropriate ways to ensure that juveniles are held accountable for harm they have caused and offers them an opportunity to redeem themselves.**

From the Desk of  
Senator Dennis Linthicum  
District 28