



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Jim Goodwin, President
- Molly Rogers, President Elect
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OJDDA
305 NE 3rd St.
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OJDDA Supports Senate Bill 817 with Amendments

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association (OJDDA) supports eliminating administrative fees, court costs and fines associated with juvenile delinquency matters, the right to court-appointed counsel at state expense regardless of financial circumstances, and removing parental support obligation for youth in state custody.

We respectfully request a -2 amendment to SB 817 to clarify that the prohibited fees are those charged by counties for services provided by the juvenile department; and that families who have the ability and resources to pay for assessments, treatment and services received from community-based providers will retain responsibility for payment whether through insurance or out-of-pocket.

The juvenile justice system focuses on achieving community safety and accountability by promoting positive youth development. Any condition of probation, such as the payment of administrative fees and fines, which does not contribute to youth success should not be ordered.

Charging justice-involved youth and their families' administrative fees and imposing unnecessary fines is antithetical to the goal of achieving positive youth development. Fees and fines distract and burden youth without influencing positive behavior change or helping youth become productive members of the community.

The practice of imposing administrative fees, court costs and fines places a particularly heavy burden on those who are poor. Justice-involved youth disproportionately come from families living at or below the poverty level, and this burden creates additional obstacles to long-term success. Moreover, the practice of charging fees and fines worsens racial and economic disparities in the juvenile court system, adding further trauma and stress to marginalized communities.

The financial burden that administrative fees and fines create for many adjudicated youth also poses a significant barrier to successful completion of probation supervision. Failure to pay fees and fines can result in a violation of probation, extension of supervision, or even a revocation, drawing youth deeper into the juvenile justice system.

Fees and fines are not effective at changing youth behavior or teaching responsibility, nor do they serve as an effective accountability mechanism. Even the most compliant probationer cannot pay money that they do not have.

OJDDA urges your support for Senate Bill 817 with amendments.

For Further Information Contact

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