

February 19, 2021

House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Chair  
900 Court Street N.E. Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

My name is Randy R. Butler. I have been a volunteer with the Oregon Youth Authority since December 2015. I have had the privilege to serve O.Y.A. in various capacities both with youth and with staff and with administration. I am asking you to grant O.Y.A. all they are requesting from you as they are transforming lives in a way that needs further public attention. Their Positive Human Development Model or P.H.D. as we reference it internally is not a theory but a proven practice of transforming lives both at the youth level and the staff level. It is not only a philosophical approach to humanity but a proven practical life changing life giving one as well. I have seen its fruit at a distance, and I have been privileged to be a part of it up close. Compassion, knowledge, and love fuel this model, but it still requires FULL funding to operate at its greatest potential. Dollars translate into transformed lives. If one takes a short cut on the dollars, then lives are placed in the balance and transformation will likely be incomplete. As Oregonians, this simply cannot be acceptable. Our youth must be our highest priority!

I am urging this committee to grant all that O.Y.A. is requesting because Oregon depends on the success of O.Y.A. The youth we work with within O.Y.A. ARE Oregonians. They are people who have made poor choices, but then that is the nature of humanity, all humanity. They are worth redeeming. Oregon needs these youth to reach their highest potential. Your vote has a direct cause/effect on the future of these Oregon youth. I thank you for your time and for your consideration of my testimony.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Dr. Randy R. Butler