



VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

February 23, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 575: Juvenile Expunction Reform

Dear Senator Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

SB 575 is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda and we support the passage of SB 575 to reform Oregon's juvenile expunction process and break down barriers that keep youth from moving forward as they transition to adulthood.

Juvenile records create collateral consequences that can indefinitely forestall a youth's ability to become a productive adult, limiting access to housing, employment, school enrollment, college admission, and professional licensure. These collateral consequences cost taxpayers in the form of lost wages and increased justice system expenditures. The burdens created by juvenile court records disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, and low-income youth, who are overrepresented at all stages of the juvenile system and are most heavily burdened by the consequences of juvenile court records.

For youth that choose to pursue expunction of their own records, the complicated process required to do so often presents many barriers to success. It is vital that youth receive counseling from the start of this process. SB 575 allows youth seeking expungement to request a court appointed attorney before beginning the application process so they do

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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not have to complete the complex application paperwork by themselves and can get advice about their eligibility before they start the process.

Youth who have successfully completed accountability and rehabilitative programs should have the opportunity to be productive community members. Expunction plays an important part in that opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration. Our Children Oregon urges you to support SB 575.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

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View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda