



February 25, 2021

Comments on the OYA Budget

House Bill 5039

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sollman, Senators Hansell and Prozanski,
and Representatives Grayber, Kropf, Leif, and Stark,

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) strongly supports a full and vibrant budget for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). Together with county juvenile departments, OYA is a critical component in the juvenile justice system. The letter of support you have received from the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association (OJJDA) lays out how the system works, and the critical nature of OYA receiving full funding for its operations. It goes without saying that youth are important. Youth in the justice system presents a golden opportunity to help a young person get on the right path for their future. We should not shortchange the system we have implemented to provide that help.

AOC respectfully requests that proposed cuts to the OYA budget not be implemented. Those funds support highly effective support services for justice involved youth and therefore further the cause of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Bovett", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Rob Bovett

UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.

1201 Court St., Suite 300 | Salem, OR 97301-4110 | 503.585.8351 | www.oregoncounties.org