

**To:** Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety

**Date:** February 23, 2023

**RE:** Support for SB 5541

Dear Committee Members,

As a community-based organization committed to healing the traumas that many children, youth and families experience, we are writing in support of SB 5541: the Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) budget request. Parrott Creek has been a long-time service partner with OYA, providing BRS residential treatment, youth Sexual Offence Therapy, and many other artistic and cultural enrichment activities for the youth placed in our care.

With OYA's support, our program models are highly effective:

- 12% recidivism rate
- 92% of youth reported positive changes in their lives and achieving their goals
- 93% of youth reported a strong therapeutic relationship with our staff
- 82% of youth demonstrated grade level education improvement

As keen advocates for the ongoing reform and improvement of our justice systems, Parrott Creek recognizes that the OYA is considered a national leader in its adoption of the Positive Human Development model and the implementation of Restorative Justice throughout its facilities.

As a provider of BRS residential treatment under contract to OYA, we strongly urge you to fully fund their request to significantly increase BRS payment rates so that we can better attract highly skilled and compassionate employees to work with our youth 24/7, and to provide the highest level of care that these young people deserve. We also ask you to provide additional funding specific to Sexual Offense Therapy as this is both court-mandated and not yet reimbursable by Medicaid.

It is our pleasure to work in partnership with OYA and, again, we support SB 5541.

Sincerely,



**Simon Fulford**  
Executive Director