



TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 27, 2023
RE: Support of SB 902

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

Disability Rights Oregon is in support of SB 902

Under this proposed bill, a person who is 20 years of age or older at the time of resentencing for a crime committed when the person was under 18 years of age to continue temporary assignment to a youth correctional facility if the person was temporarily assigned to youth correctional facility following their original sentence. This bill was introduced in a previous session after work by the SB 1008 implementation committee.

This simple change to the law will allow a person who was sentenced as a youth to serve their sentence at a youth facility, rather than be transferred to an adult facility. This bill serves an important purpose by making sure that youth receive services tailored to their developmental level, rather than placing them in a situation in which they receive little benefit and risk recidivism due to incomplete rehabilitation. Additionally, this bill will represent a monetary savings due to the administrative cost of inappropriately moving a person from the youth system into the adult system.

For these reasons, DRO supports SB 902 as it will implement the changes suggested by an implementation committee and will provide the services to our youth in the least restrictive setting.

Thank you for your time.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777 or email her at mmoyer@droregon.org.

¹ See ORS 192.517.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).