
Senator Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street, NE.
Salem, OR 97301

March 10, 2023

Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kyla Armstrong-Romero. It is my honor to come before you as the Director of the Juvenile Services Division in Multnomah County. I have the privilege of being here today to represent Multnomah County in support of OYA Funding Senate Bill 5541. I would like to specifically highlight support for funding for Multnomah County Gang Prevention Services. This investment helps our county provide critical community-based, family-focused, culturally responsive services to high risk, high need youth and families and contributes to lower recidivism and fewer crime victims by ensuring youth attend their court hearings and remain safely in their community.

I would like to direct your attention to the annual report we submit to the legislature that outlines in detail the programs we operate with this funding, including services, outcomes, and outputs. I've also submitted for the record a one page high level summary.

I brought an entourage with me today in person and remotely. This amazing entourage includes youth and families that will speak to the importance of our collaborative paradigms from a lived experience perspective.

Before I end my testimony to you, I wanted to say that the passage of SB 1008 in 2019 uplifted the need for Oregon Juvenile Justice partners to create more community-based programming. With the juvenile system now responsible for supervision of youth adjudicated for serious felony cases, the services funded in this section are needed more than ever. It is vital that we invest in community-based, evidence-based, culturally-responsive partnerships.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Kyla Armstrong-Romero
Juvenile Services Division Director
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice

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