



KLAMATH COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

March 27, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Broadman
Oregon Legislature
Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Public Safety

Testimony of Dan Golden, Director, Klamath County Juvenile Department
In Support of the Oregon Youth Authority Budget – HB 5041

Co-Chair Senator Broadman and members of the committee:

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is the state agency that brings together the county juvenile departments across Oregon. In rural parts of the state; in eastern, central, and southern Oregon, OYA provides essential services that the counties cannot provide by themselves.

Please keep in mind that our county juvenile departments provide mandated services to the Oregon juvenile courts, mandated by state law. See ORS 419A.012.

As such, county juvenile departments, particularly in rural counties, rely on OYA to initiate, convene, coordinate, and carry out vital services that binds the juvenile justice system together.

OYA provides Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding for important preventative programs and vital functions of county juvenile departments. JCP funding needs your support.

The OYA sub-division known as the Community Resource Unit (CRU) assists many community-based rehabilitation programs across Oregon. The agency presentation reminded us that most youth in the OYA system are in the care of these community-based foster homes, proctor placements, and residential rehabilitation programs. Without CRU, many youths would be committed directly to youth corrections instead of rehabilitation programs where many succeed.

OYA has provided leadership in coordination with the tribal governments across Oregon. One such initiative here in Klamath County led to the establishment of an MOU between the Klamath Tribal Court, the Klamath County Juvenile Department, and the 13th Judicial District Juvenile Court to cooperate in case management of tribal affiliated youth and families.

Finally, OYA has implemented one of the nation's only comprehensive juvenile data bases, the JJIS system, to bring all juvenile departments together. The JJIS modernization project needs your support. Please support HB 5041 and the OYA.

Thank you, Dan Golden, Director, Klamath County Juvenile Department