



OREGON
Alliance
of Children's Programs

21 May 2013

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUPPORT HB 3253 AMENDMENTS

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Close, and Committee members,

I am Janet Arenz, Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs. We are a statewide non-profit, supporting good budgets and good policies for children and families, so that we can make children Oregon's greatest asset.

We do this by representing \$205 million in small businesses, delivering services and programs for over 100,000 children. We have a payroll of \$152 million for 5,500 employees and raise \$35 million in philanthropic sources each year.

Member programs span child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, addiction, runaway and homeless, developmental disabilities and prevention.

Many of our members provide evidence-based sex offender treatment for youth who have tremendous potential to overcome the abuse they suffered, and be accountable for the mistakes they made.

We supported the original legislation in 2011 because:

- Youth are very responsive to treatment.
- Recidivism rates, especially for these youth, are very low.
- Registration is an unnecessary barrier to these youth to achieve stable employment, housing, and responsible adulthood.

Amendments to HB 3253 brings Oregon in line with what already exists for adults, or exists for juveniles in other states:

- Allow youth to have the same opportunity to petition for relief as adults in Oregon currently receive.
- Set a minimum age for youth to be required to register (15 years). As mentioned above, registration for youngsters is an enormous burden to carry into the future, and reduces the possibility they will achieve the very goals we want for them.
- Allow adults who were youngsters when an incident occurred, to be able to petition the court for relief. The relief would not be automatic; the court would still assess risk factors, and designated predatory offenders would be ineligible for relief.

Thank you for considering our request for support of HB 3253 as amended.

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