



*Going Places. Going Strong.*

The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Duane Stark, Co-Chair  
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB 5042, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) budget and bond funding for the continuation of OYA's 10-Year Strategic Facilities Plan. OYA protects the public by holding youth accountable and providing a safe environment for evidenced-based treatment services, education, and reformation.

Over the last budget cycle, and with the support of the Legislature, OYA has redeployed its existing funding to move forward implementation of the Youth Reformation System, a predictive analysis model to inform decisions at all levels of Oregon's juvenile justice system. The model uses juvenile data in Oregon's unique Juvenile Justice Information System to create better outcomes for youth in terms of returning to society ready to take part in a productive, healthy, crime-free life. The model, in turn, reduces victimization and reduces taxpayer expense.

OYA has also continued and enhanced its comprehensive culture change initiative known as Positive Human Development. Ph.D. is Oregon's strength based take on the developmental model of Juvenile Justice, a nationally recognized best practice. Under the Ph.D. approach, high expectations and accountability are the outgrowths of safety and security and caring and supportive relationships. Maintaining funding levels for OYA will help the agency continue these transformational efforts to the benefit of the youth they serve and the safety of the public.

Finally, OYA, pursuant to legislative direction in the 2013 session, began implementation of its 10-year facilities strategic plan that is consolidating and updating physical environments that serve Oregon's most at risk youth. These projects bring the agency's physical environments in line with best practices that research shows deliver positive outcomes for youth and public safety.

I urge to you do everything you can to help continue OYA's momentum. It is imperative that the state maintain the OYA budget for public safety and reformation and allow OYA to continue the work its doing that will continue to protect the public and have meaningful impacts on education, prevention and economic development for Oregon.

Having recently toured the Maclaren youth correctional facility let me just say that I was beyond impressed with the rehabilitative work and the facility. They are working very hard to help those young men succeed once they have completed their period of incarceration. The young men, however, will need the support of employers, housing, and social support to take the extremely



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valuable skills they learn at MacLaren into the world. Also, I feel it is important that we work to ensure that young women in this system are also prepared for release and able to become productive and contributing members of society.

Sincerely,

*Shari Dunn*

Executive Director