



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 19, 2019
TO: House Committee on Judiciary
RE: HB 62321, relating to public records of county juvenile department employees

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

HB 2321 is a measure that will provide identical privacy protections to certain county-employed juvenile justice employees such that they are on par with the privacy protections currently enjoyed by state-employed Oregon Youth Authority employees.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners sought the introduction of this measure and is in favor of HB 2321. We want to express our thanks to Representative John Lively for his willingness to gain the introduction of this measure, along with the other sponsors that joined onto this effort. We want to further express our appreciation to Chair Williamson for holding today's public hearing on the bill.

Lane County's public safety officials work environment can expose them to danger. Their families are sometimes exposed to that danger as well. Oregon law has recognized that policy initiatives afford these officials and their families some degree of protection. In particular, state law provides many public safety officials an exemption when it comes to public records requests which could serve to identify where these individuals reside. However, until the presence of HB 2321, these exemptions have not been offered to employees of a county juvenile justice department.

HB 2321 identifies three sets of records that will become more private; voters records, property tax records, and the records from the Department of Public Safety and Standards Training.

The Committee should also know that state law offers additional protection for certain public safety personnel, including OYA employees, by providing the Department of Motor Vehicles with authority to offer these individuals the use of their employer's address when obtaining a driver's license or other vehicle related records. We have an amendment to HB 2321 which would serve to include county juvenile justice employees this protection as well, and would ask that if the Committee decides to further work this measure that it include that amendment into the version it sends to the floor for a vote of the entire House.

HB 2321 would result in county juvenile justice employees within Oregon having the identical privacy protections as their counterparts employed by the State, and we believe this is good public policy.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY