



Oregon Voices
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Feb. 5, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair

Testimony regarding SB 966, SB 968, SB 969, and SB 1008

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

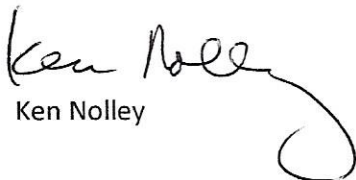
My name is Ken Nolley and I am writing on behalf of Oregon Voices. We advocate for evidence-based practices with regard to sex crimes. We have worked with multiple families who have a member sentenced as a juvenile under a measure 11 crime; some had served their time and were out already; others were still incarcerated. Some were sentenced in adult courts and had served time in adult prisons. Some had been sentenced to life without parole and have been in adult prison for more than 20 years. But we have seen compelling evidence of the growth and change that young persons can achieve as they mature, and we believe that no juvenile should be sentenced to life without parole. Consequently we strongly support SB 968.

We believe that wherever possible, juvenile courts and juvenile facilities should be used for juveniles and that the research indicates that keeping juveniles within the juvenile system yields better results and safer communities. Therefore, we strongly support SB 969 and its requirement that a juvenile court hold a hearing before waiving prosecution to adult court.

We also support SB 966 and SB 1008, both of which provide opportunities for an extra look at juvenile cases—in the case of SB 966 by providing a conditional release hearing at 27 before sending a former juvenile on to adult prison, and through SB 1008 by providing the possibility for a conditional release hearing for youth offenders when they have completed half of their Measure 11 sentence.

We recognize that these changes require a 2/3 majority vote, but we also believe that the time has come to make changes in our juvenile justice system that take into account what both the research and the experience of those working with youth tell us. Please support this important package of bills.

Sincerely,


Ken Nolley