

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 30



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 1, 2019

RE: SB 967 – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in support of SB 967. This policy is important in ensuring that incarcerated youth, who committed the crime while a minor, can be sentenced to serve at a youth incarceration facility, rather than being sent to an adult incarceration facility. That placement can make a significant difference in their life trajectory. Our youth deserve an opportunity to re-enter society as a contributing member, not made to suffer for actions they took as a minor, due to many of them being at-risk and have suffered a great deal of trauma in their life.

On my multiple visits to Maclaren Youth Correctional Facility I have seen the great work that is being done with the youth in its custody. It is reflective of the effectiveness of working with youth and accounting for their individual needs in reducing recidivism rates and assisting those formerly incarcerated in leading productive lives after release.

This bill will overall increase the quality of life for all here in Oregon, giving those that have committed a crime in their youth the opportunity to rehabilitate. The youth can then care for their mental health needs, focus on education, and give them the support needed to make better choices and opportunities to earn a living wage job in the future. The passage of SB 967 is a crucial step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janeen Sollman