

April 15, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I write to you in support of HB 2042. This bill removes the sunset on the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and County Juvenile Departments in sharing information with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to allow them access to youth's information should they transfer to DOC. The Sunset was extended last session, as we had not yet had enough time from the date of completing agreements and sharing information to the sunset to feel the trial period was completed. Currently, we do and feel good about this being now the law.

The access to the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) which is the information that is the focus of sharing, is subject to an agreement with DOC and the JJIS Steering Committee. Within this agreement, OYA and County Juvenile Departments monitor who uses JJIS and if JJIS is used for the legal purpose. DOC has been a very good partner in this; they have been prompt to address any user error, which in every case are immediately remedied by system access training.

The JJIS Steering Committee asked that OYA strengthen our administrative rule language on monitoring user agreements and terminating access. That rule change language is in process and was one of the components put in place to allow the removal of the sunset.

This law recognizes that youth at times go directly from the juvenile to adult systems. For the continuity of care it is sensible that DOC to have timely access to pertinent, medical, mental health information, behavioral, and access to programs.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine Kirk
Public Policy and Government Relations Manager
Oregon Youth Authority