



Oregon Voices
990 Judson SE
Salem, OR 97302

April 23, 2019

To the House Judiciary Committee

Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Chair, Rep. Chris Gorsek, Vice Chair, members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Voices in support of the four Senate bills that have now been consolidated into SB 1008 A . 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 also seen compelling evidence of the growth and changed that young persons can achieve as the mature, and we believe that no juveniles should be sentenced to life without parole.

We also believe that wherever possible, juvenile courts and juvenile facilities should be used for juveniles and that the research indicates that keeping juveniles within the juveniles system yields better results and safer communities. Therefore, we strongly support the requirement that a juvenile court hold a hearing before waiving prosecution to adult court, opportunities for an extra look in juvenile cases through providing a conditional release hearing at 27 before sending a former juvenile on to adult prison, and 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 the important package of changes in this bill.

Sincerely,

Ken Nolley
Oregon Voices