

# SB 1573

## Remove barriers to youth success: support juvenile expunction reform

### The bill does:

- automatically expunge the records of young people who have never been found within juvenile court jurisdiction but have at least one “contact” (a report of behavior that could have resulted in juvenile court involvement).
- allow a young person seeking expungement to request appointed counsel before beginning the application process, rather than waiting until the District Attorney objects to the application. Young people won’t have to fill out the complex paperwork by themselves and will be able to get advice about eligibility before they start the process.

### The bill does not:

- reduce the legal requirements that young people must meet to get their juvenile records expunged.

**When youth have contact with the juvenile justice system, records are created. Some information in the records is publicly available and can create barriers to youth success.**

**Juvenile records create collateral consequences that can indefinitely forestall a youth’s ability to become a productive adult.**

Juvenile records limit an individual’s access to housing, employment, school enrollment, college admission, and professional licensure.

**These collateral consequences cost taxpayers.**

These costs come in the form of lost wages and increased justice system expenditures.

**These collateral consequences make communities *less* safe.**

Studies indicate that individuals who are unable to find employment or attend school are more likely to commit crime or recidivate.

**Youth of color are disproportionately impacted.**

Youth of color, and specifically African American and American Indian/Alaska Native youth, are **overrepresented** in the juvenile justice system across Oregon. Research shows that juvenile records are more debilitating to youth of color than their white peers.

**Youth are capable of rehabilitation.**

Scientific studies show that youth are prone to impulsive, risk-taking behaviors because their brains are not fully developed. Science shows that youth are particularly responsive to rehabilitative efforts and often “outgrow” their problematic behaviors.



Questions?

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Sources: Juvenile Law Center, *Future Interrupted: The Collateral Damage Caused by Proliferation of Juvenile Records* (2016), <https://juvenilerecords.jlc.org/juvenilerecords/documents/publications/future-interrupted.pdf>, Oregon Juvenile Justice Information System, *Data & Evaluation Report: Racial and Ethnic Disparities Relative Rate Index* (2017), <https://www.oregon.gov/oya/reports/jjis/2017/2017-RacialEthnicDisparity.pdf>, McArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, *Issue Brief 3: Less Guilty by Reason of Adolescence* (2006), [http://www.adjj.org/downloads/6093issue\\_brief\\_3.pdf](http://www.adjj.org/downloads/6093issue_brief_3.pdf), Coalition for Juvenile Justice, *Applying Research to Practice: What are the Implications of Adolescent Brain Development for Juvenile Justice?* (2006), [http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/resource\\_493.pdf](http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/resource_493.pdf)