

Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I ask for you to join OYA in supporting SB 134. This bill fixes a gap in law, where only Adults in Custody (AIC) in a Department of Corrections (DOC) facility, are noted in law for public records release consideration. Adjudicated youth are covered by history and prognosis considerations. DOC youth in OYA, are noted in neither. The bill addresses those who are committed to the Department of Corrections, but temporarily assigned to the Oregon Youth Authority (what are often called DOC youth) allowing for considerations for release when records are requested.

In the Senate, the bill was amended. I want to speak to that amendment and to put on the record the intent in this bill. The new language in ORS 420.011(4)(c) is intended to signify that nothing in this bill will affect current law as it relates to records access by attorneys representing a person committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections and transferred to OYA, or by prosecutors or assistant attorneys general representing the state, for use in connection with that person's juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, or criminal proceeding. There may be other laws that authorize access to such records, restrict access to such records, or that require a certain process be used to access such records by counsel for the person and counsel for the state. Those laws and processes are unaffected by this exemption. This exemption is not intended to broaden or restrict current access to records by counsel for the person or by counsel for the state, for use in that person's criminal, juvenile dependency, or juvenile delinquency proceeding.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine Kirk Oregon Youth Authority