



## National Center for Youth Law

January 31, 2021

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Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301

### **Re: Support for SB 422 (Manning) – End Juvenile Administrative Fees in Oregon**

Dear Senator Prozanski,

The National Center for Youth Law supports the passage of Senate Bill 422 (Manning) to end the assessment of fees to families with youth in Oregon's juvenile delinquency system.

Thousands of young Oregonians and their families are currently charged a wide range of administrative fees by courts, state agencies, and local entities. Research shows that juvenile fees undermine the financial and psychological well-being of youth and their families. Harsh penalties for failure to pay juvenile fees compound the economic and emotional harm.

Juvenile fees also disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous and low-income youth, who are overrepresented at all stages of the juvenile system. For example, Black and Indigenous youth are three times more likely than White youth to be committed to the Oregon Youth Authority.

Despite the significant and racially disparate harm they impose on youth and their families, juvenile fees generate little or no net revenue for counties, courts, or the state. Across the board, revenue is declining while collection costs are substantial and increasing over time. In some cases, because families cannot afford to pay, collection costs exceed revenue.

Passing SB 422 will relieve vulnerable youth and families of regressive and racially discriminatory fees without significant cost, if any, to the government.

The National Center for Youth Law urges you and your colleagues to vote yes on SB 422.

Sincerely,

Michael Harris  
Senior Director, Juvenile Justice and Legal Advocacy