



February 22, 2021

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 575: Juvenile Expunction Reform

Dear Senator Prozanski,

New Avenues for Youth supports the passage of Senate Bill 575 (Dembrow) to reform Oregon's juvenile expunction process and break barriers that keep youth from moving forward as they transition to adulthood.

Juvenile records create collateral consequences that can indefinitely forestall a youth's ability to become a productive adult, limiting access to housing, employment, school enrollment, college admission, and professional licensure.

These collateral consequences cost taxpayers in the form of lost wages and increased justice system expenditures.

The burdens created by juvenile court records disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous and low-income youth, who are overrepresented at all stages of the juvenile system and are most heavily burdened by the consequences of juvenile court records.

Youth who have successfully completed accountability and rehabilitative programs should have the opportunity to be productive community members. Expunction plays an important part in that opportunity.

New Avenues for Youth urges you and your colleagues to vote yes on SB 575.

Sincerely,

Sean Suib, Executive Director