

SB 517

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I support SB 517. In general I support measures that perfect Oregon's approach to criminal justice; SB 517 qualifies as such a measure.

The roles of licensing in Oregon include registration and certification or permitting. SB 517 describes circumstances (specific relevance of a charge, a conviction, or qualifying juvenile adjudication) under which it could be appropriate to deny licensing. Absent such connection, denial is not appropriate.

When we deny a permit based on issues not relevant to the permit's purpose, we create a block on the road to a better society. Opposition to SB 157 suggests that no one who has been convicted of a crime (even completely unrelated to the permit's domain) can ever be trusted to become a contributing member of society. Evidence is that people mature, reform, learn from experience. Let's maximize their chances for a welcome role.