

Submitter: Doug Riggs

On Behalf Of: OYA POP 105 Childrens Treatment

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

Measure: SB5541

Providers, staff, youth, advocates and communities urge you to fund OYA POP 105 at \$1.189 million. We also recommend that you add a budget note requiring that OYA provide a report to the Committee on the status of programs, capacity levels, and compliance with the training requirements from HB2633 (2017).

Unfortunately, the Governor did not include this POP in her budget, even though the agency indicated last biennium that it will cost more for the state to contract out this legislatively and court mandated treatment.

This is one of those really clear instances where a “cut” simply does not translate into “savings.” But more importantly, by failing to fund this program, we are really taking away hope. We are denying young children, many 11 or 12 or 13, an opportunity for healing and recovery. Remember, there is a 94+% rate of success for youth who have access to this treatment. And that enables these young people to move on with their lives, graduate from school, access housing, become gainfully employed, and become healthy members of society. This is about resilience, hope, and the safety of our communities.

As a result, we urge you to address this key issue and include POP 105 in your budget.