



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Dear Co-chair Broadman, Co-chair Evans, and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:



The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is in support of the Criminal Justice Commission's (CJC) Policy Option Package #100 to support the Juvenile Justice Policy Commission (JJPC). The request will provide permanent positions for research and program support for the JJPC.

The juvenile legal system in Oregon is at an important inflection point to make forward progress and not just do what has always been done; with different elements that need to come together to make overall system improvements. Some of those areas include:

- exploring diversion and restorative justice to promote rehabilitation;
- aligning with local and national best practices;
- evaluating efficient and collaborative service delivery (e.g., behavioral health, education) options across the system; and
- improving outcomes for youth of color and other marginalized youth.

There are many efforts currently underway to support this work, including at OYA, county juvenile departments, and the Oregon Judicial Department to name a few. There is no other forum that brings together the impacted systems, legislative members, as well as those with lived experience to identify, research, develop, and recommend solutions for the legislature to consider. The constellation of JJPC members is primed to do this important work. The ability for CJC to provide ongoing research and program support is key to the success of the legislatively designed duties and outcomes of the JJPC.

The Oregon Youth Authority values the work of the Criminal Justice Commission and is committed to the work of the JJPC, as evidenced by loaning time of our Senior Rule and Policy Advisor to CJC to provide program support to get the JJPC stood up. We look forward to continued engagement with the JJPC on our shared goals of improving the juvenile legal system for better youth outcomes, decreased disparities, and increased public safety. OYA's vision that youth who leave our custody go on to lead productive, crime-free lives, and being a resilient and responsive agency is strengthened by the work of the JJPC.

We urge your support of POP #100 to support permanent funding for two positions for the JJPC at the Criminal Justice Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe O'Leary
Director