

Submitter: Simon Fulford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB816

As the Executive Director of a community-based nonprofit that has been serving Oregon's adjudicated youth since 1968, the need for more flexible contract and payment models to support the development of innovative, culturally-responsive, youth-centered and trauma-informed programs in our communities is critically needed. When government agencies, such as OYA, are unable to use legislatively appropriated funds flexibly, quickly and responsively, our communities suffer and, inevitably, more youth end up in correctional facilities where they don't belong. While not the only driver, fee-for-service and other outdated contract models hamper organizations in the community to best respond to children's needs and result in a disproportionate number of BIPOC youth being incarcerated. SB 818 allows OYA flexibility to deploy state tax payer funds to best meet the needs of our youth and families. We fully support this bill.