

March 24, 2025

Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Subcommittee On Public Safety  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 5515 - Regarding Department of Education Funding and Juvenile Crime Prevention Plans**

Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the Committee,

I'd like to thank the Committee for your support for the Department of Education, and the Youth Development Division's prioritization of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Program (JCP) in Oregon. Multnomah County supports SB 5515 because it addresses the critical need for comprehensive services to support at-risk youth and families to reduce juvenile delinquency.

In Multnomah County, the JCP funding currently resources essential services to prevention programs for justice involved youth and their families including the Community Healing Initiative Early Intervention (CHI-EI). This upstream program aims to divert youth from becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system, with referrals made by community partners, schools, and local law enforcement. Program Coordinators are assigned to a caseload of youth to develop service plans tailored to meet the individual youth and family situation. School connection and re-connection assistance, counseling, youth development activities (e.g. sports, arts), and parent support are among the most critical areas of need. In 2024, 23 youth participated in CHI-EI, with the majority being from Black and Latino/a families, and with only 17% receiving a new criminal referral following their participation in the program.

The program also pays for support to the pre-adjudication and informal investigations unit. Pre-adjudication Juvenile court counselors (JCCs) play an essential role in assessing family and youth needs, connecting them with wraparound services, and ensuring they are successful in navigating the adjudication process. These JCCs help parents and caregivers navigate the juvenile justice system alongside their youth, providing contextual information along the way. The Juvenile Services Preadjudication and Informal Unit is one entry point to a more robust system of care which allows families to access services to help meet their needs.

Thank you for considering our comments for SB 5515. We believe that fully funding these programs is an investment in the future of our community. By reinforcing our commitment to at-risk youth through enhanced services and programs, we establish a foundation for stronger, safer neighborhoods and a brighter future for the youth of Multnomah County, and Oregon. We respectfully request your support for SB 5515.

Sincerely,

Ansley Flores  
Interim Director, Juvenile Services Division  
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice