



# Oregon Alliance

3/26/2025

Dear Chair Evans, Chair Broadman, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs to express our **strong support for the approval of the Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) budget as outlined in SB 5041**. As a coalition representing over thirty organizations that provide essential services including proctor care, therapeutic foster care, shelters, residential support, and independent living services—we recognize the vital role OYA plays in supporting youth and families across the state.

Service providers across Oregon have reported an increase in the level of acuity among youth in their care, a trend that OYA is also experiencing. Data from one facility indicates a 29% increase in diagnosed trauma disorders among male youth from 2020 to 2025. To effectively address these challenges and maintain the quality of care, it is imperative that the investments outlined in SB 5041 are approved.

Key components of this budget include:

1. **Preserving Continuing Service Levels:** Maintaining current staffing levels in community programs is crucial. The proposed 6% increase in the wage index for residential service providers is necessary to sustain service capacity and minimize disruptions for the youth in care.
2. **POP 304 – Facility Renovations:** The budget includes funding for long-overdue renovations to the MacLaren health clinic, ensuring OYA can provide constitutionally required health care. Delays in facility improvements often lead to significantly higher repair costs over time. These renovations are critical for maintaining the health and well-being of youth in OYA custody, enabling them to fully engage in services and rehabilitation.
3. **POP 551 – Reentry Support Services:** This provision establishes a dedicated position to coordinate reentry services, addressing the pressing need to prevent homelessness and housing instability among youth exiting OYA. Investments in rental assistance, financial literacy programs, training, and outreach services will improve the likelihood of successful reintegration into the community.

SB 5041 makes essential investments in the future of OYA youth, ensuring that they receive the care, stability, and support necessary for rehabilitation and successful transition back into society. I urge your support for this budget to uphold Oregon's commitment to the well-being and future success of its youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further information from the Alliance.

Sincerely,

Interim CEO  
Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs

Empowering Organizations,  
Transforming Lives