



March 27, 2025

Senator Anthony Broadman, Cochair

Representative Paul Evans, Cochair

Public Safety Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Neutral with concerns HB5041

Cochairs Broadman and Evans, and the members of the Public Safety Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the record, my name is Susan Allen, and I am proud to represent over 39,000 members of Oregon AFSCME, including the Juvenile Parole and Probation Officers at the Oregon Youth Authority.

We are concerned about the backlog of over 3000 cases that have been investigated and have not been fully processed. We are also concerned about the additional 700+ complaints that are additionally in the queue.

We understand the plan for more staff to aid in triaging the backlog through this transition is a priority, but it is our observation that the plan does not include more workers who will be directly serving the youth in the system. We believe that this is an oversight. A plan that adds more managers without boots on the ground and increased behavioral health services doesn't set OYA public servants up to succeed, especially when you are considering the notable backlog.

The Juvenile Parole and Probation Officers are some of the only folks who shepherd participants from entry into through departure from the system. We are invested in progress by providing support, structure, and accountability to juveniles, so that they, in coordination with other services and supports, don't walk alone on their journey to a best path forward.

When times are difficult, community partners need to lean in. As such, Oregon AFSCME will continue to support our workers and the Oregon Youth Authority's support of juveniles as they navigate life skill building and progress.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify today.

Susan Allen

Political Coordinator, Oregon AFSCME