

Oregon Youth Authority

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Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Wallan, Vice Chair Chotzen, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) supports House Bill 3948. This bill updates the law regarding the use of unmanned aircraft over not only correctional facilities, but also youth correctional facilities and juvenile detention facilities.

OYA's mission statement requires us to provide opportunities for youth reformation in safe environments. We strive to keep contraband out of our correctional facilities, but there are many methods by which it can be introduced. While it is difficult to pinpoint, we have heard and are concerned about the use of unmanned aircraft, or drones, being used to drop contraband on OYA facility grounds.

The bill provides an additional tool in the toolbox for law enforcement to use when investigating and holding people accountable for this criminal activity. It may also serve as a general deterrent if people are aware that the use of drones over OYA facilities is against the law.

We want to acknowledge and thank Representative Lewis for reaching out to our agency about this concept. We urge your support of HB 3948 to help keep environments safe for youth in OYA and county juvenile facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Martin Legislative Coordinator, OYA