



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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May 5, 2025

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

The Oregon Youth Authority supports the passage of Senate Bill 813. The bill is a technical fix to add OYA and county juvenile department staff to a list of public safety workers who, in the performance of their duties come into contact with bodily fluids of another person, may ask the court to compel the source person to be tested for certain communicable diseases if they do not voluntarily agree to do so.

OYA and county juvenile staff, like other public safety workers, are at risk of exposure to bodily fluids. Staff work closely with youth in numerous situations that could lead to exposure, such as: supporting youth who are ill or injured, responding to medical emergencies, responding to altercations, or supervising youth engaged in physical activity.

In the 2017 session, ORS 433.085 was repealed and replaced with ORS 431A.570 with key definitions being changed. The prior version of the law had broad terms for corrections officer and parole and probation officer which could encompass OYA and county juvenile department staff. The 2017 version uses specific legal definitions of those roles which now exclude OYA and county juvenile staff. We believe this was a technical error in revising the statute that can be fixed with a simple correction.

OYA and county juvenile staff should have the right to petition for testing for communicable diseases to protect their health and well-being. Other law enforcement, public safety, corrections and first responders are entitled to the right to compel testing and the same should be true for OYA and county juvenile staff who put themselves at potential risk of harm every day.

OYA urges your support for SB 813 for the safety of our workers and to help us maintain a responsive and resilient workforce.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Martin
Legislative Coordinator, OYA