



OREGON JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF THE YOUTH SENTENCING REFORM BILLS BY THE OREGON SENATE

“Oregon’s senators have shown they understand the need for a legal system that is more focused on rehabilitation and reform than on harsh punishments and lengthy sentences. Oregonians have made it clear they want to see change in how our state addresses offending behavior by youth. Moving toward a system based on what the science teaches us about brain development in young people and what actually works to reduce harm is the right choice. We all want to see accountability, but healing needs to be part of the equation. For too long, Oregon has been behind the curve in how we treat youth in our justice system. Our rates of youth incarceration and of prosecuting children as adults are among the highest in the country. Following the national trend toward sentencing reform for youth puts our state on the right track. We have 25 years of data to show how Measure 11 has affected our youth and the data tell us it’s time for change.”

Statement to be attributed to Bobbin Singh, Executive Director, Oregon Justice Resource Center.

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