



VOICES UNITED.  
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

March 16, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 817 - End Juvenile Administrative Fees in Oregon

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Senate Bill 817 is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda, and we support the passage of SB 817 to end the assessment of fees to families with youth in Oregon's juvenile delinquency system.

Thousands of young Oregonians and their families are currently charged a wide range of administrative fees by courts, state agencies, and local entities. Fees and penalties for the failure to pay fees, such as wage garnishment, property seizure, and extended detention, undermine the financial and psychological well-being of youth and their families.

Juvenile fees also disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous and low-income youth, who are overrepresented at all stages of the juvenile system. For example, Black and Indigenous youth are three times more likely than White youth to be committed to the Oregon Youth Authority.

Passing SB 817 will relieve youth and families of regressive and racially discriminatory fees. Our Children Oregon and our Children Agenda partners urge you and your colleagues to vote yes on SB 817.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,  
Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director  
Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at [www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda](http://www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda)

## The Children's Agenda

*is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.*



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