



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Wraparound initiative will better serve Oregon youth with behavioral issues** *HB 2144 provides clear direction and legislative oversight to Governor's Order*

SALEM – Legislation that promotes coordination in the delivery of services to Oregon youth with behavioral issues passed off the Senate floor this morning. House Bill 2144 codifies a broadly supported initiative based on nationally recognized models to help children and their parents navigate the complex system of services and supports that assist troubled youth.

“This bill is a no-brainer to me because it consolidates services and prevents duplication,” said Senator Bill Morrisette (D-Springfield), who carried the bill on the floor. “By taking a holistic approach to providing services we will be better able to help our kids.”

In 2007 the Governor signed Executive Order No. 07-04, directing a steering committee to develop a strategic, state-wide plan for implementation of a coordinated system that delivers behavioral health services to Oregon youth. The order sought to reduce redundancy and oversight in services with the intent of promoting a holistic approach to helping Oregon youth.

“Troubled youth oftentimes receive services from a wide array of state agencies and community programs,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). “These programs do good things individually, but when they work collectively and collaboratively they can best help Oregon’s most vulnerable children.”

State agencies affected include the Department of Education, Oregon Youth Authority, Department of Human Services and State Commission on Children and Families.

HB 2144 was introduced in the House by Representative Debbie Boone (D-Cannon Beach). The bill will now go to the Governor’s desk.

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