



from the office of
Senator Jackie Winters

PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon Senate Passes Legislation Giving Youth Offenders a Second Look

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon Senate passed legislation that will authorize ‘second look’ hearings for incarcerated youth, rescind mandatory adult prosecution for juvenile offenders between the ages of 15 and 17, and prohibit youth under the age of 18 who commit an offense from being sentenced to life without the possibility of release or parole.

“This bill is important because we finally take into account that youth should be treated like youth,” said Senator Jackie Winters, R-Salem. *“We need a public safety system that holds youth accountable for crimes, but just as importantly ensures they can grow and change for the better. The fundamental question is how we treat our young people – they are our future. If we do not have a system that teaches responsibility – how to become a valued citizen – redemption – then what hope have we given them?”*

SB 1008 was passed with bipartisan support and was the result of a work group created to address the issue of youth incarceration in Oregon. The bill now goes to the House for further consideration.

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