

# OYA *In the Loop*

**June 26, 2009**

The Oregon House of Representatives voted to restore proposed reductions to OYA close custody.

Earlier today, the Oregon House passed two public safety related bills that restore some proposed OYA reductions. HB3508 changes some sentencing standards and fully implements Measure 57 until February 15, 2010, when a reduced version will go into effect. These provisions free up some money for public safety programs in OYA and other state agencies. HB 5055-A appropriates \$9.8 million to OYA: \$3.5 million to maintain close custody beds at Hillcrest and \$6.2 million to keep open the Eastern Oregon Youth Corrections Facility in Burns. Companion funding in HB 5054 of \$3.5 million will mean that all 74 beds are maintained at Hillcrest.

These bills must go to the Senate for consideration, and we believe there are enough votes for passage. After passing the Senate, the bills will go to the Governor who will sign them into law. .

While we are not out of the woods yet, this is the best news we have had in weeks. I will let you know when I hear about the Senate vote. For now, let's all take a deep breath and look forward to a good night's sleep – the first in a long time for many of us.

Bobby