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**New Report Analyzes 15 Years of Measure 11 Data  
and Questions Current Policy of Trying Kids as Adults**

*Portland, Oregon* – In another sign that Oregon is ready to look at sentencing reform, the Partnership for Safety (PSJ) and the Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) are releasing an extensive report, *Misguided Measures: The Outcomes and Impacts of Measure 11 on Oregon's Youth*.

Just days after Governor John Kitzhaber appointed a high-level commission, lead by former Governor Ted Kulongoski, to look at Oregon's sentencing policy, a far-reaching report on the impact of mandatory minimums on youth is being released today. *Misguided Measures* is the first comprehensive study of Measure 11's impact on youth. The report finds that while there is much about Oregon's approach to juvenile justice that is smart and effective, Measure 11 has not provided the effective sentencing voters were promised nor helped youth lead successful crime-free lives.

"*Misguided Measures* illustrates the problems of Measure 11 and why it's wrong for youth to be tried as adults and housed in adult facilities," says Shannon Wight, Associate Director for Partnership for Safety and Justice and co-author of this report.

Craig Prins, Executive Director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, commented, "Many of the findings in *Misguided Measures* are similar to what we reported in our recent study of Measure 11's impact on adults. I think one of the most significant findings in this report is how often young people are awaiting trial in adult jails before they are convicted, and then are not convicted of the charges that put them in jail in the first place."

Oregon voters passed Measure 11 in November 1994. The measure created new mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes and required that youth charged with those crimes be automatically tried as adults. Youth convicted under Measure 11 serve the same mandatory sentences as adults.

Ken Hales, Director of Community Justice for Deschutes County, praised the report. "*Misguided Measures* demonstrates that Measure 11, as it is applied to youth deprives young people of individual justice and is ineffective and costly. Measure 11 has opened a wide door that funnels kids, almost uncontested, into the adult justice system, which is counter-productive as far as rehabilitation is concerned. This study will help build the case for the changes we know are needed."

Fifteen years after Measure 11 was enacted, CFYJ and PSJ began conducting research to determine the impact that Measure 11 was having on youth in Oregon. The authors analyzed data on 3,274 young people indicted with Measure 11 offenses between 1995 and 2008.

## **Key findings of the report include**

**Measure 11 for juveniles has not made Oregonians any safer.** Over a three-year sample period from 2006 to 2008, data from the 36 Oregon counties show no discernible connection between the number of young people charged with a Measure 11 offense and the juvenile crime rate.

**Most youth do not have the benefit of an impartial judge evaluating their case.** 92% of the time youth are entering pleas in adult court which means that there is little opportunity for the back-and-forth discussions that might happen in a juvenile courtroom—where the needs of the victim, the community, and the young person can be identified and balanced.

**Many youth charged with Measure 11 offenses are not the most serious youthful offenders.** Six out of 10 youth charged with a Measure 11 offense will not be convicted of a Measure 11 crime. Nonetheless, many of these youth will receive the lifelong stigma of having an adult court conviction.

**Measure 11 has had significant costs for all Oregonians, but it has different impacts on communities of color.** In Oregon, youth of color comprise 25% of the youth population but 36% of the youth indicted under Measure 11. African-American youth are 4% of the population and 19 % percent of all indictments.

**Few youth have benefited from an opportunity to receive a “Second Look” hearing.** Oregon’s “Second Look” law was conceived as an opportunity to help provide young people in custody with an incentive to change their behavior; however, less than 6% of the young people affected by Measure 11 have benefited from this law.

## **Recommendations to lawmakers:**

- Remove youth from adult jails.
- Extend Oregon’s “Second Look” law to all young people convicted as adults, regardless of how they end up in the adult system.
- Remove second-degree offenses from Measure 11.

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Partnership for Safety and Justice is an 11-year old statewide advocacy organization that promotes smart public safety policy by advocating for victims and survivors of crime, as well as for people convicted of crime, to create policies that create a more effective public safety system.

The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.

For more information or to read the report, visit: [www.safetyandjustice.org](http://www.safetyandjustice.org) or [www.campaignforyouthjustice.org](http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org).