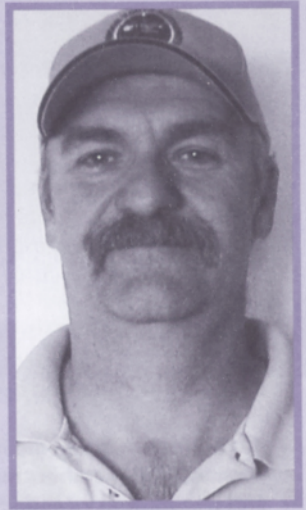


...Fighting for a Community

"Through constant pressure from OYA members, our SEIU brothers and sisters throughout the state, and my community, we were able to move Rep. Bentz from Eastern Oregon to vote yes the second time around, casting the deciding vote to keep the Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility open. Our community and the citizens of Eastern Oregon depend on it!"

Ben McCanna
Group Life Coordinator
Burns EOYC Facility



With critical public safety programs on the chopping block, four legislators came together to forge a compromise that would protect public safety. The compromise protected public safety by delaying the full implementation of Measure 57 for two years and allowing earned time for non-violent offenders with a record of good performance. These changes would save \$90 million that could fund other critical public safety programs such as maintaining the Burns OYA facility, preserving state police positions, and retaining training of corrections officers.

The compromise proposal needed a two-thirds vote in the House to pass because it changed sentencing guidelines. The vote was expected to be close and considered so critical that Representative Betty Komp left a hospital bed to return to the Capitol; it was the only bill she voted on while she was out sick. The bill narrowly failed on the floor when a native son, Representative Cliff Bentz of Burns, played party politics rather than supporting his community.

But SEIU 503 members did not give up. Members from across the state, including care providers, DHS workers, and others, joined OYA members and they continued to call, fax, and e-mail House members, focusing on Bentz. After a week of pressure from SEIU members, a new compromise was reached. The compromise still provided funding for OYA facilities and police. **Only the hard work of OYA members assured that they were included in the second compromise. It was their phone calls and pressure that made Bentz vote yes on the second compromise. The measure passed with 40 votes. Bentz cast the deciding vote.**