

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/23, 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges resumption of White House Conference on Children and Youth.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Secretary of Health and Human Services plans to convene and conduct Conference
- 17 member policy committee will be comprised of experts, policymakers and child welfare advocates from all geographic regions
- Secretary of Health and Human Services will prepare a final report and submit to the chief executives of the states
- Proponents assert that nationally, child abuse and neglect rates, homelessness, and mental and physical health risks for children and youth have increased exponentially due to the economic climate
- Foster youth can end up homeless, drug addicted and pregnant at early age due to lack of support and oversight
- Department of Human Services report indicates there are over 13,000 foster care children and youth in Oregon
- Lack of supervision, over caseworkers, foster parents and other providers
- Need for caring and adequately trained professionals who are in contact with foster children and at-risk youth
- Affects of youth in long term foster care
- Studies indicate foster care alumni experience rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) up to twice as high as war veterans

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes references to outdated congressional bill numbers.

BACKGROUND: The first White House Conference on Children and Youth was held in 1909 and held every ten years until 1970. The conference focuses on improving the outcomes for children by preventing and reducing child abuse and neglect in the first place; increasing permanency through family reunification, relative foster care and adoption; reducing the number of children in foster care; and decreasing the number of children aging out of foster care.