



**Commissioner Judy Shiprack**  
**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

District 3

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Dear Co-Chair Tomei, Co-Chair Gilliam and members of the Human Services Committee.

I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of HB 4165. I will keep my remarks brief, but I want to highlight two issues.

First, I applaud the Legislature and Governor for working to remake Oregon's system of early childhood programs and services. As the board liaison to the Multnomah County Commissioner on Children, Families and Community and the Co-Chair of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, I am keenly aware that many children in our community are born into difficult circumstances. Many face poverty, unstable families, and parents with substance abuse or criminal records. If we don't provide early intervention, many of these children will face abuse, neglect, school failure and the likelihood of ending up in the criminal justice system themselves.

We will never have adequate resources to do all that we need to do, but looking comprehensively at the way we fund early childhood programs and interventions makes sense and I look forward to partnering with the state to implement a new system in our community.

I also want to express support for the one-year extension of local commissions. I believe this will give our Board of Commissioners, our county departments, and local commission staff the time needed to plan and transition to a new system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Judy Shiprack, Multnomah County Commissioner, District 3