

From: Mary Jaeger [<mailto:mary.jaeger@ltco.state.or.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:39 AM
To: Sen Shields; Newell Channa
Cc: Newell Channa
Subject: In Support of SB 570

Testimony in Support of SB 570

I am a constituent of Senator Shields, and have served as Oregon's Long Term Care Ombudsman since 2009. Prior to that time, I was the Executive Director of CASA for Children, of Multnomah and Washington counties for 10 years. During those 10 years I also served as a CASA volunteer with my husband, advocating for 17 different children on 11 different juvenile pendency cases. It is reflections on my years with CASA that prompted me too write this letter of support for SB 570.

Foster parents provide critical services under the most difficult and sensitive of circumstances for the children who have been removed from their homes for a variety of reasons. No matter the cause, the children need trained, kind, patient and skilled foster parents to ease their transition and try to establish a "new normal" under the most trying circumstances.

SB 570 could tremendously help the children under the care of foster parents by giving those parents a voice in the system, allow for collective wisdom-sharing and ultimately assist the very vulnerable children in their care.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment, and urge the Committee to support SB 570.

Yours,
Mary Jaeger, MSG/MPA

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