

Catholic Community Services

A Forever Home for Everyone

Chair Tomei and members of the committee, for the record;

My name is Aubrey Boyce. I am 18 years old and a senior at Sprague High School here in Salem. I was neglected and abused as a baby and placed in foster care when I was 18 months old. I went back to live with my mom when I was 2 ½ yrs. old. With my mother's health at a low point, I reentered foster care again when I was 3 years old. After about a year the State sent me to live with my grandmother.

She struggled with her health too and decided it was best to have me live temporarily with my aunt and uncle when I was 5. Unfortunately my aunt was an alcoholic and her kids were drug addicts so that placement didn't last very long. When my grandmother felt better she had me come back to California after three short months in Oregon.

Eventually my grandmother's health deteriorated so badly she was no longer able to care for me and my older brother. She passed away when I was 7 years old. My mother passed away just four days after my grandmother, a mere four rooms down the hall in the hospital. As you can imagine I was in shock. I remember hiding under a table because I didn't want anyone to find me and take me away to another new place.

I ended up being placed back with my aunt and uncle again in Oregon. At first my aunt only abused me mentally, but when she started drinking again, she abused me physically too. Life was far from joyful. I have to admit that it was a relief when she passed away. My uncle began to never be home after my aunt died. There was never food in the house so I just roamed around the neighborhood getting into trouble.

Eventually I was placed back into foster care. By then I was too afraid to let anyone care for me because everyone who tried had either walked out on me or passed away. This began to change though when I went to live at one of Catholic Community Services' Community Homes for Children.

There have been many bumps in the road along the way, but they have kept their word and didn't give up on me. I am going to graduate from high school this year. I have a part time job at CCS that I love, and I have obtained my driver's license, and essentially did a complete turnaround with my life. I plan to go on to college next year and Catholic Community Services has promised that they will stand behind me just like any good parent would until I am out of college and I can support myself. I feel confident about my future and I don't want to let the people who care about me down.

I urge you to support HB 3445. I can assure you that until I had a safe, stable, nurturing home I didn't trust anyone or anything but now I have a good home and high hopes for the future.

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