



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 3, 2013

Representative Carolyn Tomei- Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Chair Tomei and fellow members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

Today, I come before you in support of protecting Oregon's foster children and urge your eye vote for House Bill 3445. Foster care for children started in the US in 1853. Since then, many children have walked through the foster care system. Right now in Oregon, we have almost 9,000 children in foster care. That is roughly 10 out of every 1,000 kids and it's twice the national average for a state our size. Our current system allows the movement of foster children from residential home to residential home in order to provide the intensive services foster children need. This practice that creates a cycle of constantly moving around for foster children. This environment does not promote stability. Instead it creates a system with poor outcomes.

House Bill 3445 is an important step in ensuring that Oregon's youth—the kids we're charged with caring for— are given the best shot at permanency as early as possible. Furthermore, it ensures that we meet the needs of our foster children where they need it the most, in their home. This also reduces the instability of moving them from home to home.

Chair Tomei and fellow members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing, I ask that you support our foster children and support House Bill 3445.

Respectfully,

Representative Joseph Gallegos – HD 30

