

Good Afternoon Senators and Chair Shields,

My name is Mark Callahan. I live in South Salem. I am here today to advocate against the proposed passage of SB 570, as currently written. This bill would make foster parents public employees for the purposes of labor organization activities. What this bill does not address is individual worker choice. Being that Oregon is not a "Right-to-Work" state . . . yet, if foster parents become public employees, they would be forced to join a union, or at the very least, pay a union a portion of their hard earned money, being that unions have a monopoly/oligopoly over labor in public employment. Believe it or not, there are those, including foster parents that disagree with how unions choose to spend the money of those, that are forced to pay the unions, in order to have or keep a job. Those that disagree with unions effectively cannot control the political causes that unions spend the individual worker's money on; causes that the individual worker disagrees with. This is not right to arbitrarily make someone join, or force them to pay money to a union, via SB 570, to become a public employee.

Rather than spending time complaining about SB 570 today, I propose a solution, or amendment to the bill. Allow foster parents the ability to "opt-out" and be able to individually choose whether they want to be a public employee. Give them a choice on whether they should be forced to pay money to a union to be able to maintain their employment, or remain independent by not joining, participating in, and not contributing money to a union, in order to keep their hard earned money and resources, to care for those in their foster care, that Senator Thomsen described as the most damaged. Unions are not the answer to every type of employment, which is why I am asking this committee to maintain the free will and free choice that our great nation and great state of Oregon was founded upon by voting against SB 570 as currently written, and to amend it as described above. Thank you.