

The Association of Oregon Counties Supports SB 123A

Co-Chairs Bates and Nathanson and members of the committee:

The Association of Oregon Counties supports employing one person within the Governor's Advocacy Office to establish a formalized grievance process. This is an important step forward for Oregon's foster children. The grievance process should prevent problems from escalating to a point where the county-run safety net is employed. Not only would this result in healthier and more secure foster children, but it could potentially provide savings because of the reduced reliance on public safety system.

Currently, Oregon does not have a formalized grievance process for foster youth to follow if their legal rights are violated. This leaves too many of Oregon's 13,000 foster youth disconnected from their siblings, on unwanted psychotropic drugs, and vulnerable to maltreatment. This bill provides an opportunity for Oregon to increase the quality of life of its foster children and potentially save money. The Association of Oregon Counties supports SB 123.

Please contact AOC Staff Mark Nystrom with any questions.