



Oregon
Foster Youth
CONNECTION

MEASURE: SB 123
EXHIBIT: 9
S. HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 3/2/13 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Zachary Miller

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Zachary Miller. I am originally from Curry and Jackson County. I am here with the Oregon Foster Youth Connection to ask for your support of SB123.

At this moment, there are about 13,000 youth in the Oregon foster care system. Of those 13,000 youth, many do not know their rights and have them constantly violated by foster parents and caseworkers. I was in the foster care system for five years and went through three homes. While I didn't have my rights violated, my siblings and many of my friends had their rights violated while in foster care. Some examples are when my brother would disagree with his foster parents and his foster parents would lock him in his room for an entire day. When my friend didn't quite do a chore well enough, her foster mom would throw objects at her head as a punishment.

By putting SB123 in place, grievances such as these will be prevented and the rights of youth will be respected. If foster you understand their rights, they are better equipped to advocate for themselves when their rights are being violated.

We ask that you please pass SB123 through the Senate. If you do, you will have the gratitude of not only us, but of youth all over Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Zachary James Miller