

Catholic Community Services

*We champion the positive development of children and adults,
strengthen families and build community.*

March 12, 2015

Senator Sara Gelser
Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: **Senate Bill 632**

Chair Gelser, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Jim Seymour. I am the executive director of Catholic Community Services. Catholic Community Services is a State-licensed and nationally accredited foster care organization. I am here today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 632.

Catholic Community Services provides foster care for more than 100 children and youth on any given day. This only represents ten percent of the Marion, Polk, and Yamhill County foster care population but it is the ten percent of the population with the most serious emotional and behavior problems.

Ricky is one of the children we serve. When he came to us, at ten years old, he had already been in 40 different foster home placements and had never been able to attend public school. He has been in his current foster home for three years now and is doing well.

I'm confident that none of Ricky's prior foster parents wanted to give up on him but without adequate training and support he simply wore them all out. The kind of extra support we provide includes specialized trauma informed care training, behavioral supports, ongoing child development and parent training, 24/7 on call back up, respite care, tutoring, mentoring, and enhanced search for the foster child's healthy biological family members. Catholic Community Services provides these enhanced services without any State support.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage you to include specific measurable outcomes in the bill. The long term outcome for all foster children should be to transition out of foster care to a nurturing, permanent home of their own.

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Nationally accredited by the
Council on Accreditation



The two most important interim outcomes, in my opinion, are that the children experience no disrupted foster care placements and enjoy success at school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Seymour". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "S" at the end.

James T. Seymour

Executive Director

Catholic Community Services

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