

Ms. Johnson,

I saw that there was some written comments in the file from the American Council of the Blind that was in opposition to the Emergency clause.

The reason the National Federation of the Blind is supportive of this bill in its current form is because the Commission for the Blind Board (and subsequently the agency) would be facing the replacement of 3 of the 4 blind individuals now serving on the board, who are very familiar with the current status of the agency and the highly specialized services it provides. Transitioning 3 people off the board this June would result in 6 of the 7 board members serving on the board for less than 1 year. This would significantly diminish oversight of the agency, as the new board members require a great deal of time to become familiar with the agency, its practices, and services.

The Commission Board has discussed it at 2 of our most recent meetings, and the board, particularly those who are new, are supportive of the bill in its current form.

I urge the Committee to pass this legislation to ensure stability and adequate oversight of the agency. I will be present during the work session if the Committee has any questions.

Carla McQuillan
Vice Chair, Oregon Commission
for the Blind
President, NFB of Oregon
Executive Director
Main Street Montessori