



Oregon Foster Youth CONNECTION

HB 2216 – Sibling Bill of Rights

Almost 8,000 children are in Oregon’s foster care system. Despite federal law requiring that siblings be placed together whenever possible nearly 75% of siblings who enter foster care end up being separated from at least one of their siblings.

Sibling relationships are critically important to the healthy development for overall well-being of children and youth over the course of their entire life. The Oregon Foster Youth Connection is asking for your support of the Sibling Bill of Rights - **HB 2216**.

HB 2216 reinforces:

- Placement of siblings together whenever safe and appropriate

HB 2216 provides the following:

- Maintenance of sibling contact with the development of:
 - A sibling contact plan created with youth participation and reviewed annually
 - Transportation and electronic communication
 - More privacy and less restrictions on sibling communications
- Training for foster parents and case workers on the importance of sibling relationships
- Support from their attorney to advocate for contacts and visits while in care and during adoption or guardianship plans
- Notification of placement changes or important events affecting a sibling

“I grew up watching other kids fight over insignificant things with their siblings, wishing they could be an only child. While I would have given anything to have my brother back.”

-Celestina, age 16



The Oregon Foster Youth Connection - is a youth-led organization made up of current and former foster youth working to improve the foster care system through advocacy, activism and leadership.