



April 19, 2017

Chair Sara Gelser
Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Gelser and members of the Committee:

My name is Stacy Cowan. I am here today to testify in support of HB 2216. SEIU represents workers at DHS, which includes Child Welfare. The workers we represent are happy to support this legislation that has been brought forward by Oregon Foster Youth Connection. Maintaining healthy relationships with siblings while in the foster care system is in the best interest of the youth and policy makers should do everything possible to support these connections.

Oregon's child welfare system is in a state of crisis. It is going to take a commitment on behalf of the legislature to make broad policy changes and a significant revenue investment to move the program forward. That change can only happen with engagement and leadership from all partners, perhaps most importantly the foster youth impacted by the system.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. I hope we can count on you to support HB 2216.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146
www.seiu503.org