



May 2, 2017

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Monnes Anderson and Senators,

Children First for Oregon is the primary source for data on the wellbeing of Oregon's 860,000 kids. Our program, United for Kids, works with partners like the Oregon Pediatric Society, to make Oregon the best place to be a kid.

HB 3404 advances the health of Oregon's children by instituting safeguards proven to protect our state's vulnerable, young passengers from the worst effects of car crashes. By placing all children under two in rear-facing car seats, as directed by HB 3404, the legislature continues to encourage safer car travel. Infants and toddlers in rear-facing car seats are five times safer than those facing forward. A rear-facing seat better protects their young bodies, heads, necks, and spines.¹

Following the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatricians, several other states across the nation have adopted legislation similar to HB 3404.² Oregon should follow these recommendations and give our youngest passengers the most secure ride possible.

Children First for Oregon asks you to support HB 3404 and protect the infants and toddlers riding on Oregon's roads. Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregon's kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Hunt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tonia Hunt
Executive Director
tonia@cffo.org

¹ B Henary, CP Sherwood, J R Crandall, et al.; Car Safety Seats for Children: rear facing is the best protection, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2598309/>

² <https://saferide4kids.com/blog/the-general-history-of-car-seats/>.