

Rep. Carla C. Piluso
HB 3067 (CourtCare) testimony for Public Safety Subcommittee
June 5, 2017

Co-Chairs Winters and Stark, members of the committee,
For the record, my name is Carla Piluso, state representative for House District 50,
the City of Gresham.

I am in front of you today to urge your support for House Bill 3067. House Bill 3067 would establish a program to provide child care for the children of anyone conducting business at Marion or Polk County courthouses.

When Brent brought the CourtCare concept to me it immediately resonated with me. Multnomah County already offers this service, and I think it is absolutely essential to protecting the wellbeing of our kids. Through my years in law enforcement, I have spent a lot of time in courthouses and courtrooms. I have truly seen the worst of what happens there. Our children should not have to.

Parents involved in court proceedings often do not have the family support or resources to find a place for their children to be taken care of while they go to court. In these cases, those children come to the courthouse with their parents. They sit through hearings which can subject them to recounts of domestic or sexual violence, debates over their own custody, and a host of other intensely stressful and inappropriate testimony and judgment. Watching these court proceedings can traumatize or retraumatize children.

CourtCare is a simple, easy, and cost-effective solution. And it is the right thing to do for our children. Colleagues, I ask that you please consider recommending approval for the modest financial investment necessary to establish these programs in Marion and Polk Counties. I hope that eventually we can bring free court childcare statewide. Every new county we can bring this to is a huge step in the right direction that will make a difference in the lives of countless children. Thank you.