



February 9, 2017

Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer
House Committee on
Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Keny-Guyer 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.

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