



OREGON
Alliance
of Children's Programs

7 June 2017

Floor Letter
SUPPORTING HB 2401

From the desk of
Rep. Nancy Nathanson
N. Nathanson

We are very happy to bring a critical bill to you today, which is brought forward with the unanimous vote of the full Ways and Means Committee last week.

The work towards this bill began nearly four years ago, when we co-sponsored a statewide summit focusing on Adverse Childhood Experiences and the devastating impacts that trauma has on children.

UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA

The Alliance conducted an ACE study of nearly 800 children. The ACE events reflect impacts such as abuse, neglect, death and other losses, parents in prison or with mental health or addiction issues. Scores for these events go from 0 – 10.

A score of 4 = Recognized Score for a future with social and physical health issues, chronically ill adulthood, and early death.

ACE scores for children coming into treatment:

6.1 = Average score of children in Alliance member programs
8 = Score for children in therapeutic foster care

The bill includes Department of Human Service divisions for Licensing and for Investigations on abuse/neglect. They must have an understanding of trauma on children as they go through investigative processes and make decisions about removing children and what happens when staff “disappears” during investigations.

A Portland State University study/report identified other potential **trauma during Investigations or removal of child or staff:**

1. Surprise, shock, chaos.
2. Negative view of people who are actually there to help them.
3. Loss of control, sense of being kidnapped, powerlessness, helplessness.
4. Betrayal, loss of trust, reinforcement or exacerbation of previous loss of trust – a sense that the world is unsafe.
5. Confusion, unpredictability, it doesn't make sense.
6. Fear of the unknown, lack of information.
7. Sense of guilt or failure.

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This must be an ongoing effort that will require routine training; this isn't a one-time training session and you are done. It needs to be built into an institutional culture.

HB 2401 will memorialize the need for this work to go forward and to create the systems that will build that institutional culture and reduce trauma impacts on children and staff.

Thank you for supporting the bill!



Catholic Community Services

