



House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capital
Salem, Oregon

February 14, 2018

Re: Support for passage of HB 4009, Relating to Juvenile Dependency Proceedings

Dear Committee:

The Salem/Keizer unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, fully supports the passage of HB 4009.

The foster care program in Oregon, as elsewhere, disproportionately impacts the families of minority communities in two respects. Minorities are disproportionately represented among families whose children are taken into the foster care system, and minority youths are disproportionately represented among children who languish in the system until they “age out” into adulthood.

The latter problem is exacerbated by the fact that Oregon law does not provide a pathway to reinstatement of parental rights once the reason for termination has been remedied and it is the best interests of the child to restore the original family unit.

The SK-NAACP, urges passage of 4009 in its entirety, but if only that portion of the bill that restores parental rights under certain limited circumstances moves forward, we urge its passage as a necessary piece of legislation on its own.

Sincerely,

Benny C. Williams

Benny C. Williams
President, Salem/Keizer NAACP