

Please Vote "Yes" Today

Passed **Unanimously** out of House Judiciary and Senate Human Services

Reuniting Families and Preventing Children from Aging out of Foster Care

What does HB 4009B do?

- HB 4009B creates a court process for a child or DHS to reunify a child with a parent whose rights have been terminated when the parent has made significant positive changes in their life, the juvenile court finds that it is in the child's best interest, and the child consents.
- HB 4009B has many safeguards to protect children and does not allow anyone to disrupt an existing, filed, or otherwise pending adoption.
- This bill will help reunify families of children who would otherwise age out of the foster care system without a legal parent. We expect 8 to 10 families a year to be impacted.

Why is HB 4009B Necessary?

- Currently, the juvenile court may not return a child to her parent after that parent's rights have been terminated—even if the child has not been adopted and the parent has made significant positive changes that make them a safe parent.
- More than 1,700 children in Oregon are waiting to be adopted.
- 16 other states, including Washington, Colorado, and California, have similar laws.
- The Oregon Court of Appeals has suggested that a legislative fix is necessary to allow families to reunite when it is in a child's best interests.¹
- Children of color and those with disabilities are more likely to age out of foster care without a permanent family.²

Sponsored by Rep. Sanchez

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¹ Dept. of Human Services v. K.W., 273 Or App 611 (2015).

² Post & Zimmerman, The Revolving Doors of Family Court: Confronting Broken Adoptions, 2012.

2/27/2018