

Member of the Committee on Human Services:

I am writing to you in support of SB653. This bill requires the recording of interviews that have been used to displace children from their homes. I am a former foster parent in Bend Oregon. I fostered my niece for two years as her parents were/are addicts. I chose to resign my role as a foster parent due to witnessing the daily corruption caused by dishonest staff of DHS. I simply didn't want to speak to the case workers any more as I found them to be rude and dishonest. They seemed to be on a power trip and it was disheartening going to hearings and watching judges believe what they had to say. It is mind boggling trying to understand why the case workers we met over the years acted the way they did. It was as though the more kids they had in Foster Care, the better they were doing. Also if you didn't fully embrace their ideals you could bet they were going to take your children from you cause they had the power and the judge was going to believe them over you. I learned a couple things following my stint. The first was that Oregon has a rate of taking kids from homes twice as high as other states. The second thing I learned was that a director was hired to try and fix the many issues with DHS and she ended up stepping down after only six months as her hands were tied and she was not given any real power to incorporate change within the agency. This was Director Lena Alhusseini in 2017. I thank God on a daily basis that I no longer have to deal with the incompetent and dishonest case workers working at DHS. Having to provide real evidence instead of hearsay is a very important first step needed to fix the problem that is DHS.

Thank you,

Ryan Covey
Former Foster Parent
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