

Chair Woman Gelser and members of the Health Committee, my name is Adriana Cerda-Cruz, and I am sending this to support SB653. This particular bill is one that really hits close to home as I have had a traumatic experience with Oregon's Child Protective Services. My involvement with CPS started when I moved from the Beaverton area to the Hillsboro area, a simple accident turned our lives upside down. After what seemed like forever I regained full legal custody of my 3 children, but the experience we had has left a permanent impact in our lives. Throughout the entirety of my open case and beyond I started noticing a trend with CPS targeting minorities and low income families in the area and all over the state. I have met so many wonderful families along the way, many of which did not deserve to be separated from their kids to begin with. I support this bill to prevent wrongful removals, accusations, violations and terminations of parental rights but most of all fairness and due process to keep children where they belong: home. I am speaking not only for myself, but on behalf of hundreds of other parents/families going through something similar or have in some way felt violated from their rights by the division of child welfare. I also highly speak on behalf of my husband whom is a military veteran and cancer fighter, for being wrongfully accused of abusing our child without looking at any other avenues. Thank you for your time and consideration of your fellow constituents and future generations of safe and healthy children.

Adriana Cerda-Cruz