

My name is Cortney Thomas and I am submitting the following testimony in support of HB 2849. Oregon DHS has a terrible track record of removing children from homes without due process or reason. We have to put more accountability and transparency on DHS procedure and employees. There is no reason we need to be removing children at a far higher rate than the national average. We cannot be a state where we take children first and ask questions later. Requiring a court order for removal of a child from their home should have been in place long ago. This is one of many steps that needs to be taken to reform the failing DHS and child welfare program here in Oregon. We need to find a better balance between protecting Oregon's children and unwarranted removal from loving homes. I support this bill entirely.