

Good afternoon,

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB 2849 – Raising the standard of how/when children are removed from their homes.

We are facing a real crisis in Oregon regarding foster care. Too many children are pulled from their homes and put into situations that aren't an improvement because we just don't have enough foster homes to support the huge number of children. Having additional checks and balances in place to ensure Oregon is doing what's best for these innocent children would really help this process. A court order should absolutely be obtained before removing a child from a home where they enter the foster system and it can take months if not years to get a resolution on behalf of the child. All too often kids are removed for small and insignificant reasons and there has to be another way to correct this problem. This bill is a great step towards ensuring our foster care system improves.

Please vote YES on HB 2849.

Thank you,

Kristen Locati
Hillsboro.