

TO: Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Capital Construction  
RE: Senate Bill 1049  
ON: May 14, 2019  
FR: Kristin Masaki

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod, members of the committee,

My name is Kristin Masaki am a child abuse hotline screener working at the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline, and I am an OSPRP member.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you today a little about my work and dreams for retirement. Like many Child Welfare workers for DHS in Oregon, I climbed the 'social worker career ladder' that ultimately leads to DHS; 12 years of volunteer work, non profit youth residential programs, and educational youth advocacy. My retirement plan was laid out for me by a very sweet 12 year old resident of the White Shield, Salvation Army facility who told me all about her career goals. First, she will be a professional barrel racer and horse trainer. Then, when she gets older, she wants to help people make their yards beautiful by planting their favorite flowers in beautiful patterns. As a Job Readiness trainer for youth in the custody of DHS or OYA, I realized how challenging it would be for these youth to gain employment due to their survival techniques gained through childhood trauma becoming maladaptive as they entered adulthood.

When I retire, I want to work with aging out foster youth, and older at risk youth, to give them an employment opportunity doing landscaping and learning carpentry skills, working in partnerships with DHS, OYA, Oregon Tradeswomen, the Immigrant and Refugee Organization, Native American Youth Association, New Avenues For Youth, and the Sexual Minority Youth program, all of the local agencies I have worked with and for during the last 12 years, utilizing the contacts and networking that I have gained through that work. Many of my co workers have similar retirement dreams, and I hope to be able to retire at an early enough time to have the energy to pursue this goal, and to have a livable retirement fund to be able to give all my attention to the youth I will be helping.

Having to work past retirement age just to pay bills would make Child Welfare workers less efficient at their work as resentment settles in and overshadows their love for improving child safety. If all those Child Welfare workers are forced to continue in their role past their planned retirement date, they will have to give up on their dreams to start their own non profits for youth and all their experience and valuable skills and contacts will be wasted as they become bitter about giving up those dreams and feel trapped within their current role and working well past their efficiency within that role.

I show up to work every day and do my job, and serve Oregonians. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1049 and keep your promise to people like me.

Thank you,  
Kristin Masaki