



February 3, 2020

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Williams, and Members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee,

Children First works with our 120 partner organizations to develop the Children's Agenda. We identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children - our children - so that all of our children have opportunities to reach their full potential.

We ask for your support of HB 4141 to increase funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) funding to ensure CASA program support and quality assurance, and to expand local recruitment and training to increase the number and diversity of CASAs.

Children with a CASA have better outcomes, including being more likely to find a permanent home, and on average spending five fewer months in foster care, yet only 45% of children and youth who enter foster care have a CASA.

The [2018 Oregon Foster Youth Connection Policy Recommendations](#) called out the need for additional funding for CASA recruitment, with a focus on encouraging a more diverse pool of CASAs. We think that HB 4141 is in alignment with the OFYC policy recommendation, and the right direction for the CASA program.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director

Our Children Oregon

Bringing Together Children First for Oregon and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

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