



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.

HB 4120 is a priority issue on the 2020 Children's Agenda. We are supporting Oregon Foster Youth Connection (OFYC) in recommending a focused investment in ILP in 2020. An allocation of \$2 million will stabilize ILP providers so they continue their important work. This investment will result in more coaches, create smaller caseloads and serve up to 200 more youth in the ILP program statewide.

In 2019 there were four priorities on the Children's Agenda, and the only one that didn't pass was expanding Independent Living Program (ILP) services to help launch foster youth as successful adults. Expanding ILP services was identified by OFYC members as their top priority. We hope that you and your colleagues will agree with us that this is unfinished business from 2019, and support this targeted investment to stabilize ILP providers and serve more youth.

We appreciate your support for HB 4120, and together we hope we can get it across the finish line and funded this session.

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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