

Hello everyone, my name is TC, and I am blind.

My brother and I started in foster care when we were 7 years old. We lived in a foster home that was non-Native. We did not know about our culture or community there. About three years later we were able to live with our grandmother who taught us about our culture and tribe. Three months after I got very sick and the illness caught my eyes to go blind and two weeks later it got to my spinal cord and I was not able to walk anymore. After I got better and could go home, we got a lot of help from **NAYA Family Center** and DHS. Without them we would not be as happy or fulfilled. Many foster youth do not have the opportunity to live with relatives and stay connected to their culture. I have seen other foster youth with disabilities be misunderstood and not treated well. I propose that all **People of Color** in the foster care system will have access to their culture, tribe, and community. This will bring them purpose and inner strength. I bring forward that all foster youth with disabilities have equal and fair treatment in foster homes. Being in foster care isn't a choice but how they are treated is a choice. Please support House Bill 2505 to help remove bias from Oregon's foster care system. Thank you for listening to my story.