



*House Judiciary Committee - Subcommittee on Civil Law*  
SB 572 Public Hearing  
Written Testimony

- Chair Power, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the Committee,
- For the record, my name is Ricki Ruiz, State Representative to House District 50 - which encompasses Gresham, SE Portland, and the indigenous lands of Chinook & Cowlitz tribes.
- I'm here to testify as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 572, and an ally to our vulnerable youth. I joined Senator Wagner on this legislation after Immigration Counseling Services (ICS) approached me, shared this great concept that passed all but the House floor vote in 2020...unanimously, and was previously Chief Sponsored by the honorable Carla Piluso.
- The bill creates a technical fix to ORS 125 and redefines vulnerable youth to include those between the ages of 18 and 21 as eligible to ask an Oregon court to appoint a trusted adult as their guardian.
  - The bill would help protect an estimated 70-100 vulnerable youth in Oregon each year.
- Having the support of a trusted guardian between the ages of 18 and 21 can help youth stabilize their lives, and access federal support that has been widely available for more than 30 years.
- In light of all of the difficulties that young people have faced in the last year, now is the time to modify Oregon's laws on guardianship to sync up with federal law and join a coalition of neighboring states that have successfully made this change.
- Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. I hope that you will join me in supporting SB 572.