



Oregon
Foster Youth
CONNECTION

Support HB 2505: Removing Bias from Child Welfare

Implicit bias can be seen in all steps of the child welfare system. Within Oregon’s foster care system, historically marginalized communities are deeply impacted by racism, ableism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, and other systems of oppression, leading to injustices such as overrepresentation of these communities in the foster care system. In Oregon:

- The percentage of Indigenous children that were placed in foster care in FFY 2019 is 2.9 times higher than the percentage of Indigenous children in Oregon’s child population.
- The percentage of Black children that were placed in foster care in FFY 2019 is 1.5 times higher than the percentage of Black children in Oregon’s child population.
- Nationally, parents with cognitive disabilities are 50% more likely to have child welfare system involvement than parents without cognitive disabilities.

HB 2505 is needed to strengthen the existing *Governor’s Child Foster Care Advisory Commission* and create a *Child Welfare Equity Committee* to provide oversight and policy recommendations to address bias.

Families in Oregon deserve access to child welfare supports without being burdened by bias and oppressive systems. Support HB 2505.

For more information contact:

- Rep.TawnaSanchez@OregonLegislature.gov
- Jonathan.Pugsley@oregonlegislature.gov
- Chris@OurChildrenOregon.org, 503-312-8187

HB 2505 will:



Create a Child Welfare Equity Committee of the existing Governor’s Child Foster Care Advisory Commission, HB 4080 (2016), to increase oversight of child welfare systems



Fund an Oregon Department of Human Services Policy Analyst to support the Governor’s Child Foster Care Advisory Commission



Expand Commission membership to increase youth and family voice. The Child Welfare Equity Committee will:

- Prioritize membership to include child welfare stakeholders who represent historically marginalized communities
- Elevate the impact of bias in child welfare
- Recommend actions the Commission and Oregon Department of Human Services can take to ensure equitable treatment of populations receiving child welfare services
- Provide a more just child welfare system for the state of Oregon