



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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Representative Anna Williams, Chair
Representative Gary Leif, Vice Chair
Representative Ricki Ruiz, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Rebecca Jones Gaston MSW, Child Welfare Director, Oregon Department
of Human Services

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2505, and the -3 amendment

Introduction:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is writing in support of House Bill (HB) 2505 with the proposed -3 amendments. HB 2505 is being introduced to address barriers preventing the Governor's Oregon Child Foster Care Advisory Commission (CFCAC) from making recommendations to improve Oregon child welfare system.

Background:

[HB 4080 \(2016\)](#), established the CFCAC to study and report on issues pertaining to the foster care system in the state, and then to advise the Governor and the ODHS Director on recommendations for legislation. The CFCAC has identified necessary resources to increase participation and engage meaningfully.

What this bill does:

HB 2505, with the -3 amendment proposes to increase the membership of the CFCAC from 11 to 13 to allow for additional participation from current or former foster youth, foster parents, and biological parents involved in the foster care system. This bill also clarifies appointing authority and requires ODHS to provide the equivalent of at least one full-time policy analyst to support the Commission. Finally, the bill creates a Child Welfare Equity Advisory Committee within the Commission to ensure the equitable provision of child welfare services.

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

Summary:

Since its inception the CFCAC has lacked the necessary resources and participation critical to their advisory role. For these reasons ODHS urges your support of HB 2505, with the -3 amendments.

For more information please contact:

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