



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-945-5600

Fax: 503-581-6198

February 17, 2021

Senator Sara Gelsler, Chair

Senator Dick Anderson, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services Mental Health and Recovery

From: Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division

Re: SB 562 Letter of Information

Introduction:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is writing to provide information regarding the proposed changes in SB 562.

Background:

The ODHS Child Welfare Division currently has age requirements for certification to become a foster parent. For certification an individual is required to be 21 years of age, unless there is a tribal or relative relationship where an exception can be granted for those between the ages of 18-21.

What this bill does:

SB 562 codifies existing federal and state statute, rules, policies and practice, prohibiting individuals from providing child welfare services based on certain characteristics. The bill also codifies state policy on preventing retaliation when individuals report adverse experiences within the child welfare system.

SB 562 creates an unintended consequence resulting in the removal of age requirements to become a certified foster parent.

Summary:

ODHS respectfully submits this information for consideration on age requirements for foster parent certification.

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

For more information please contact:

Tristan Fernandez

Senior Legislative Policy Analyst

ODHS Child Welfare and Vocational Rehabilitation

503-302-1479

tristan.fernandez@dhsosha.state.or.us