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To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
From: Lisa Kay Williams, Supervising Attorney  
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**Re: Support for HB 3003**

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf and Members of the Committee:

Youth, Rights & Justice (YRJ), a non-profit public defense provider, has been dedicated exclusively to juvenile law for 50 years. Each year, we provide holistic, client-centered representation to hundreds of children, youth, and parents in Oregon's juvenile court system.

Through our advocacy for Oregon's children, youth, and parents, we often see the same systemic problems and we work to change the policies that contribute to these problems. One glaring systemic problem is that Black and Indigenous children are overrepresented in the child welfare system and significantly overrepresented in the foster care population.

YRJ supports House Bill 3003 because it requires a comprehensive disaggregated dataset in Oregon's child welfare system which promotes data-driven quality improvement.

A fundamental principle of quality improvement is that you cannot improve what you do not measure. The Oregon Child Welfare Vision for Transformation emphasizes the importance of using data to drive ongoing quality improvement. However, significant data gaps persist. It is crucial that data is disaggregated by race and county to provide a more accurate understanding of disparities. Additionally, Oregon must prioritize collecting data on two harmful practices: placing and warehousing children in "temporary lodging" and placing children in congregate care.

Children in foster care are at an elevated risk of entering the juvenile justice system. This phenomenon, often referred to as the Foster-Care-to-Prison Pipeline, must be documented, analyzed, interrupted and ultimately stopped.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues.

## Sources:

Oregon Department of Human Services. "Vision for Transformation." *Oregon Child Welfare*, Oregon Department of Human Services, <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/child-welfare-transformation/pages/default.aspx>. Accessed 23 Feb. 2025.

Oregon Child Welfare Data Book. <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/data/pages/cw-data.aspx>

Anspach, R. (2018, May 25). *The foster care to prison pipeline: What it is and how it works*. Retrieved from <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/the-foster-care-to-prison-pipeline-what-it-is-and-how-it-works>

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