

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support for House Bill 3003

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Sharf and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

For the record, my name is Travis Nelson, and I am the State Representative for House District 44 - North and Northeast Portland. I am here today to express my support for HB 3003, this is a bill that will help Oregon's foster care system by providing additional data and transparency needed to address the systemic challenges that many foster youths face. Several bills have been introduced by the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office as part of their work under HB 4052 and 2022, which tasked them with establishing a community-centered approach to legislation aimed at addressing social determinants of health. HB 3003 is a product of that work.

Oregon's foster care system is meant to be a place of protection and stability for children facing some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. But too often, children experience a revolving door of placements, temporary housing situations, and systemic failures that leave them without the support they need. Without comprehensive data, it is impossible to fully understand the scope of these challenges or to implement the necessary changes to improve outcomes for foster youth.

This bill would require the Department of Human Services to expand its annual reporting on child welfare to include more detailed information about the experiences of children in foster care. It would allow us to identify disparities in foster care placements based on race and geography, ensuring that systemic inequities do not go unaddressed. It will also improve our ability to track placement stability, giving us a clearer picture of how often children are moved from home to home and whether they are receiving the continuity of care they need. By bringing these realities into focus, this bill would help legislators, advocates, and child welfare professionals craft targeted, evidence-based solutions that truly serve the best interests of children in foster care.

This is not just about numbers. It is about ensuring that every child who enters the foster care system is given the best possible chance at a stable and supportive environment. It is about holding ourselves accountable for the promises we make to these children and making sure that our policies are informed by real, tangible data rather than assumptions.

Without transparency, we cannot fix what is broken. Without accurate reporting, we cannot ensure that our foster care system is serving its intended purpose.

I was informed by Oregon Department of Human Services of their concerns that data may be too identifiable. However, through further analysis, they confirmed that the data referenced in sub-section 13 does not compromise privacy. The information, which is disaggregated by race and broken down by county, is just reporting the average length of time in foster care.

I urge you to support HB 3003 and ensure that we have the tools necessary to create a foster care system that provides stability, care, and hope for the future. These children deserve nothing less.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis Nelson".

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland