

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support for House Bill 3003

Chair Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum and Members of the Senate Committee on 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 this session as a result of HB 4052 from 2022, which directed the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office to establish a community-centered approach to addressing the social determinants of health. HB 3003 is a product of that work.

Our foster care system is designed to offer safety, protection, and stability to children facing unimaginable hardship. But too often, the reality falls short. Children are shuffled from placement to placement. Promises of stability turn into patterns of uncertainty. And through it all, a lack of comprehensive data prevents us from fully understanding or correcting these systemic failures.

HB 3003 helps to change that. It directs the Department of Human Services to expand its reporting so we can see the full picture. It allows us to break down the data by race and geography, helping us to uncover and address disparities. It improves our ability to track how often children are moved, how long they stay in care, and whether they're getting the consistency they need to heal and thrive. 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.

Concerns were previously raised about privacy in this bill. However, the Department of Human Services has confirmed that the data in question—specifically in subsection 13—is not personally identifiable. We are talking about averages, disaggregated by race and county. We can be transparent and protect privacy. And we can do both.

We owe it to these children to build a foster care system that sees them, supports them, and sets them up for success. HB 3003 gives us the tools to do just that.

In Oregon, every child deserves a stable home, a supportive environment, and a future full of hope. Please support HB 3003.

Thank you,

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