

Child Welfare

500 Summer Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1532

February 5, 2026

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1532 on Tuesday February 3, 2026. As promised, I am providing follow up on the questions asked regarding the family's situation presented at the hearing.

The first home study request for relative foster placement was sent to the North Carolina (NC) ICPC office on 10/29/2024. The NC ICPC office closed the request on 12/31/2024 after ODHS was unable to provide documentation that the child could be successful in a regular foster care setting. NC ICPC and ODHS recommended that the family become licensed therapeutic foster parents through a NC private agency, which they did through Alexander Youth Network (AYN). The ODHS caseworker was unaware of the stipulations of ORS 413.821.

A new ICPC request was submitted by ODHS in August 2025. The branch and the family were informed about the statutory barrier to ODHS contracting with a private agency in another state and the child's current treatment provider sent a letter indicating that the child could step down to regular foster care. NC ICPC agreed to accept the new request for regular foster licensing by their county (public) agency and that home study proceeded however, the family declined to surrender their AYN license, therefore NC ICPC denied the placement in October 2025.

A complicating factor that has contributed to some of the misunderstandings in this case is that the North Carolina public agency contracts with AYN for therapeutic placement of their own children and AYN mistakenly believed that their services could be accessed via a standard ICPC request. North Carolina is not able to extend their contract to cover children being placed from other states. Instead, the sending state is expected to contract with the licensed private agency.

North Carolina Dynamics

Alexander Youth Network is licensed in North Carolina as a "Child Placing Agency" on [North Carolina's licensing website](#) and is subject to the following North Carolina [administrative rules](#).



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The home was issued a license to provide therapeutic foster care by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services under the supervising agency of Alexander Youth Network.

Additionally, per the communication with North Carolina ICPC, for placement of the youth with the relatives' Oregon would need to contract directly with Alexander Youth Network as they are the "supervising agency", and county foster home licensors do not oversee therapeutic foster care in North Carolina.

Application of Oregon Revised Statutes

Alexander Youth Network meets the definition of a CCA in Oregon pursuant to 418.205(2)(a)(A)(iii) or (v), the latter of which includes "other similar care or services for children." No exceptions apply. ODHS is restricted from placing a child in the custody of Child Welfare in an out-of-state CCA unless licensed as an Oregon CCA according to ORS 418.321.

Looking at how ORS 418.321 applies to this specific case. While per Oregon law, a Child Caring Agency does not include a foster home subject to ORS 418.625 to 418.645, it **does not** exclude any foster home under the direct supervision of a child-caring agency. For this reason, Alexander Youth Network is a licensed "Child Placing Agency" being the "supervising agency" of this proposes placement most akin what would be a "Foster Care Agency" in Oregon that is required to be licensed as a CCA per statute.

Even though North Carolina issues the foster home certificate, an external agency oversees the placement and the child's safety. This shift in responsibility for safety and oversight from the state to an external agency is what makes AYN a CCA as defined in ORS.

Current situation

On 10/23/25, OTIS CCLP notified Child Welfare and ICPC the Alexander Youth Network was provided information on becoming an Oregon licensed foster care and/or adoption agency and they replied that they are not interested.

Path Forward

ODHS agrees that it is in the best interest of this child to be placed with this family in North Carolina under ICPC upon discharge from their current residential placement. ODHS is working diligently to explore all options for accomplishing this without violating Oregon law. If the placement recommendation remains therapeutic level foster care and if SB1532 passes with Section 8 (2) intact, then ODHS can proceed to negotiate a contract with AYN. That contract is needed prior to resubmitting the ICPC request to North Carolina. Contracts cannot be completed overnight, so passage of this bill will

not result in immediate placement, but ODHS will do everything possible to expedite this as much as possible. ODHS Child Welfare appreciates the Committee's time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lacey Andresen

ODHS Child Welfare Deputy Director