



Disability Rights Oregon

TO: House Committee On Human Services
FROM: Jake Cornett, Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 20, 2026
RE: SB 1533 A - Support Rights of Children and Siblings in Foster Care

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Scharf, Vice-Chair Walters, and members of the House Committee On Human Services,

I am Jake Cornett, the Executive Director & CEO of Disability Rights Oregon. I submit this testimony on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon in support of Senate Bill 1533 A, the Foster Care Bill of Rights.

This bill is about dignity for foster care children. SB 1533 A is quite simple, it states that foster children have the right to:

- Be protected from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
• Attend school like other children.
• Enjoy confidential legal or advocacy representation, the ability to contact ombudsman's offices, and attend the hearings that are about them.
• Keep their personal belongings—things like toys and pictures of family—and to have appropriate luggage to move those few precious things they do own.
• See their siblings.
• Know about their rights.

Disability Rights Oregon serves as class counsel for every child in foster care—about 5,000 children. In that capacity, each of the changes made by this bill are necessary because our clients have been denied these rights. In conclusion, we urge the Committee to support foster children by passing SB 1533 A.

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Hans Bernard or email him at hans@growthconsulting.net.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.1 We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".2 We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.3

1 See ORS 192.517.
2 See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.
3 See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).