

Submitter: Elizabeth Spainhour Joslyn  
On Behalf Of: SB 1532  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1532

Good Afternoon Senator Gleser Blouin and House Committee Members, My Name is Elizabeth Spainhour Joslyn. My Husband and I Jerry live in Lexington, North Carolina. We are in the very long process ( 1 yrs, 6 months and 17days or 566 days) to get our grandson DH from foster care. Our Journey began 08/07/2024. I know this because it was our 10 year wedding anniversary when the letter came in the mail and the very first time I spoke to Danny Crego, his placement worker through ODHS.

DH is 9. He will be 10 in April. We are advocating extremely hard to bring this young boy home. Not to spend another day in a psychiatric residential therapeutic center. It is nowhere therapeutic for a young man who has been in 20+ placements. The longer he is there the more he regresses. My Husband worked 20+ years in Adult corrections and in the first 5 minutes he stated 2 things that alarmed me. 1. This is a kiddy prision 2. It strongly resembles a work release unit. How is having bed alarms on beds, restricting a child to be a child, No free time, no unlimited ability to talk to the ones who love him. If his foot slips out of bed in the middle of the night, that alarm goes off and he gets a demerit. No free time, he has to sit alone and just be quiet. It is not his fault he is in this place. His mother has given him up so many times due to not having time because of 3 other children she is choosing to keep, using drugs and simply not caring.

My husband and I have been invested since day one. We are old school. You don't leave family, especially a child behind. We have advocated for him. sent him packages, bought him necessities. ODHS stated the easiest way to bring him home is to go through therapeutic foster care training. This was last January. We complied. We have a license, just not in hand when DH graduated from another intact center. They sent him to an Aunt in eastern Oregon. That lasted 6 weeks. Then to another placement where that lasted 30+ days, then the worker sent him back to his mother, even though we had license in hand at this point. The worker knew she was moving, she actively packed her things and stated that he was not going with her. The caseworker sent him to where he has been for a year now. To "restabilize". Afterwards we were told we can't have him. It's against the law to send him from a Therapeutic center to a therapeutic home outside of the state. Are you kidding me? If my heart is breaking, imagine him when he realizes he is still there as we are fighting for his freedom from the kiddy prision the ODHS has placed him in. We have been jumping through hoops, and felt like we are in a circus while others on ODHS have used us like bait and switch for reasons unknown.

We just want our grandson to come home. We want him to be with his cousins who came from Eastern Oregon (Jan 2025) and we have full legal and physical custody

of. He need to run through the yard, laugh without limits, enjoy the rest of his childhood and know unconditionally he is loved.

This young man needs a loving family. A safe structured family and the ability to just be a boy. He is beyond traumatized over having no one to love and to be loved back. You can only show so much on a daily phone call or a short 5 day visit.

We recently traveled to Oregon for the Senate committee hearing to give verbal testimony. We have traveled to see DH several times. He does not get many visitors. In fact I have been here 2 times since last October and he is starving for a family to be with.

For us DH makes 10. 7 grown adult children, 23 grandchildren. We now have his cousins 17 and 13 yrs old. David makes 10. Our hearts ARE as FULL as they were with our first. We feel younger now than we have in years. PLEASE PLEASE as Parents and Grandparents, we ask you PLEASE help us bring David home.

From the Bottom of our heart Thank you for taking the time to read our story. TO not waste any more of this young boys time, his mind and his ab