



February 25, 2026

To: Representative Hartman, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Senate Bill 1533A (Support)

To Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Scharf and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (“DD Coalition”) is in support of Senate Bill 1533A. Every child deserves dignity, respect, and protection regardless of background, ability, or circumstance. The Foster Care Bill of Rights in SB 1533A embodies those values, particularly for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Though state-specific data remains limited, past studies in various states and localities have found that 30% to 60% of children in foster care have developmental delays.¹ Those children face distinct challenges that SB 1533A helps address.

The Foster Care Bill of Rights strengthens essential protections for all foster youth, including those with I/DD:

- **Safe and nurturing environments:** SB 1533A affirms the right to be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

¹ United Cerebral Palsy & Children’s Rights, [Forgotten Children: Children with disabilities in Foster Care](https://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/imported-files/forgotten_children_children_with_disabilities_in_foster_care_2006.pdf), p 5 (2006). Available at https://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/imported-files/forgotten_children_children_with_disabilities_in_foster_care_2006.pdf.



- **Stability:** It strengthens sibling connections, regular school attendance, and access to personal belongings.
- **Advocacy Support:** The bill reinforces the right to be present in court, to access an attorney, and to have unimpeded contact with the Residential Facilities Ombuds and other children’s advocates.

Children with IDD in foster care often need coordinated support to remain fully engaged in education. When placements change abruptly and belongings are packed into plastic bags instead of appropriate carriers, it creates instability that can be both disruptive and damaging. Many of these children are still building self-advocacy skills or have communication barriers, making reliable access to legal representatives and trusted advocates essential to safeguarding their rights and well-being.

For foster children with IDD, SB 1533A is transformational. It codifies the respect, dignity, and support needed for healthy development in foster care settings. The DD Coalition urges your support for SB 1533A.

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Our members include the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (a statewide coalition of people with I/DD or “self-advocates”), peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations, and developmental disability providers.