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OREGON CASA NETWORK  
Court Appointed Special Advocates

**HB 3445**

**Alternative Placement Options other than Residential Treatment**

The Oregon CASA Network supports HB 3445. The 1,915 Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteers serving children & youth in all 36 counties work every day to ensure that children get out of the DHS system as quickly and as safely as possible while upholding the children's best interests throughout their time in that system. We believe that all safe & appropriate placements options should be considered before a child is placed in residential treatment and that funds designated for a residential placement should be redirected to support the alternate placement.

While the Oregon CASA Network supports this bill, we want to ensure that the decision to place a child in an alternative placement, other than residential treatment, is **safe** and that the child receives **appropriate** care, services and supervision. The intention of HB 3445 may imply that that safety and appropriateness be considered when making an alternative placement decision, we request that the bill be amended to reflect that intention.

Please support HB 3445 with clarifications about safety & appropriateness. Children belong in homes not treatment centers.

Mission: Strengthen CASA Programs in Oregon.

Vision: CASA Programs will have sustainable resources to advocate for all children who are victims of neglect and abuse in Oregon.