

United Way  
of the Mid-Willamette Valley

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March 31, 2017

Representative John Lively, Chair  
House Committee Members on Early Childhood and Family Supports  
900 Court St NE H-488  
Salem, OR, 97301

Re: HB 3067

Dear Chair Lively,

My name is Randy Franke and I am writing in support of HB 3067, which will establish a Court Care program that provides a safe and nurturing place for children while parents or guardians attend court proceedings or conduct court-related business in Marion and Polk counties.

Currently, children who are brought to the courthouse are either allowed to stay in courtrooms, which exposes them to the ugly details that can accompany legal proceedings, or they are asked to sit in the hallways unattended. Neither option is a good one for children who need a safe and nurturing environment in order to avoid trauma that exposure to adult issues might inflict. The Court Care program established by HB 3067 will protect children from witnessing traumatic court proceedings and will allow litigants, advocates, and court staff to give their full attention to court business.

HB 3067 will improve access to justice for low-income families. The lack of affordable, quality childcare should not prevent parents and caregivers from complying with mandatory court appearances, obtaining a restraining order, challenging an eviction, or exercising their other legal rights. The Court Care program established by HB 3067 will provide necessary childcare to allow parents and caregivers to access the courts.

For those reasons, I encourage you to pass HB 3067. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Franke". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Randall Franke  
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