



From the Desk of Representative Carla C. Piluso

Oregon Foster Youth

HB 2216 –Sibling Bill of Rights

Almost 8,000 children are in Oregon's foster care system. Despite federal law requiring that siblings be placed together whenever possible. Nearly 75% of siblings who enter foster care end up being separated from at least one of their siblings.

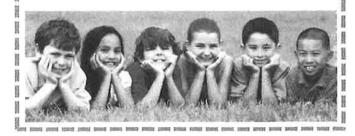
Sibling relationships are critically important to the healthy development for overall well-being of children and youth over the course of their entire life. The Oregon Foster Youth Connection is asking for your support of the Sibling Bill of Rights - **HB 2216**.

HB 2216 provides the following:

- Placement of siblings together whenever possible and appropriate
- Maintenance of sibling contact with the development of:
 - A contact plan with youth participation
 - Transportation whenever possible
 - More privacy and less restrictions on sibling communications

"I grew up watching other kids fight over insignificant things with their siblings, wishing they could be an only child. While I would have given anything to have my brother back.

-Celestina, age 16



- Training for foster parents and case workers on the importance of sibling relationships
- Notification of placement changes or important events affecting a sibling

The Oregon Foster Youth Connection - is a youth-led organization made up of current and former foster youth working to improve the foster care system through advocacy, activism and leadership.