



**CEDRIC HAYDEN**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 7

**Talking Points for HB 3015**

- \* The bills would make retroactive to 2012 the provision of the law passed in 2011 that allows a child who has aged out Oregon's foster care system to have access to free tuition at a public institution of higher education when they age out of the system and applies it to children who were adopted out of the foster care system as well.
- \* Given that state adoptions can take upwards of two years to complete, while we don't have a precise number of kids who were adopted since 2012, it's likely a negligible amount of retroactively.
- \* Anecdotally we're hearing from parents who are fostering teens that they are having to make the calculation of whether they do an adoption and give permanency or whether they ensure that a child has tuition they'd otherwise be qualified for if they age out of the system.
- \* The Legislature in 2011 already made the calculus that universities would absorb foster children who aged out of the system. They did that in a recession, prioritizing the long-term needs of these children who might otherwise wind up in the justice system, homeless, or in low-wage jobs for a lifetime.
- \* Moving forward, other than the retroactivity claims by kids who have already been adopted out and who choose an Oregon school, the measure should be fiscally neutral as the state would have already had an obligation to these children if they aged out of the system.
- \* A family who has a child they adopt still has to be otherwise qualified under the prior 2011 parameters of the law:
  - They must fill out a Federal financial aid application.
  - They must have been aged 14 to 21 and have been in foster placement for 6 months prior to becoming adopted.
- \* This change is an important tool in the toolbox towards creating permanency for teens in the system. If passed, HB 3015 means they won't have to choose between a permanent adoptive family, and the opportunity for college tuition.
- \* In a subsequent session, or even as the bill moves forward, the legislature should work with DHS to find out if 14 is the correct age for this bill, and if it's not, at what age do children become the most difficult to place for adoption due to long term financial considerations of the prospective adoptive family.





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