



March 29, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services:

As the Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance, an advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring there are services and supports available at the right time and place to improve the lives of children, adolescents, young adults, and families across Oregon. **I urge you to support the addition of \$1.4M in funding for the existing Foster Plus Program through Oregon's Department of Human Services Child Welfare for the 21/23 biennium budget.**

The program accomplished:

- Over 600,000 times per month, Foster Plus marketing material is accessed by potential foster parents across Oregon during 2021
- 70 plus potential foster parents recruited during the month of March 2021
- Foster Plus goals align with ODHS Child Welfare priorities to:
 - Develop and maintain resources to serve children and families
 - Supporting staff and foster parents with retention, recruitment strategies
 - Engage with leadership and partners across Child Welfare
 - Use data to inform decisions and performance

Thank you for your continued commitment in ensuring children and adolescents have access to high-quality foster parents so they too will have an opportunity to thrive and live their best lives. **Please support funding for the continuation of the Foster Plus Program.**

Royce Bowlin
Executive Director