

Hello my name is Sage Dupre (She/Her). I am a 22 year old Native American youth who lives in Multnomah County.

I am submitting this testimony as a member of the Oregon Foster Youth Connection (OFYC). OFYC is a statewide youth led advocacy group of current and former foster youth between the ages of 14 and 24. OFYC youth are empowered to actively participate in the development of policies, programs, and practices that improve the lives of thousands of young people in Oregon's foster care system. I have been with this organization for 5 years, and my main priorities are working on issues that come up for Native youth as well as LGBTQ youth in our state.

In my own experience, it was hard to find a forever family, meaning adoption or long term care because there are not enough homes that are culturally specific and foster parents who don't want to take specific youth in.

I am writing in support of HB 3182, the legislation to finalize and strengthen the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act which was passed in the first special session of 2020 (HB 4214). I hope that this bill with your support will give opportunities for Native children to feel wanted, and for the state to create new resources for tribal communities to foster or adopt Native children.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I urge you to support HB 3182 with the amendments from the workgroup.

Sincerely,

Sage Dupre