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To: House Committee on Human Services; others

Re: I OPPOSE [HB 2738] AND [HB 2787]...CASA attempts to solidify its' command and control via Salem's mischief.

Please do not confuse my OPPOSITION to the aforementioned legislation as being callous to and for the needs of WARDS of the Juvenile Courts and Children in Foster Care. These children's needs are far greater than the State of Oregon could ever hope to provide.

Oregon is and will continue to face severe budget deficits. Non-profiters must find non-governmental funding sources. The funding structure, governmental oversight and the projected unregulated expansion of the CASA program were not discussed. Why?

[HB 2738] excerpt states, "SECTION 1. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund, ... out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,670,000 to be expended for the CASA Volunteer Program, as defined in ORS 419A.004, for carrying out the provisions of ORS 184.492 and 419B.112. (2) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$250,000 to be distributed to the Oregon CASA Network to create and implement a statewide distance training and learning program for the CASA Volunteer Program, as defined in ORS 419A.004."

[HB 2787] excerpt states, "SECTION 1. ORS 184.489 is amended to read: 184.489. As used in ORS 184.489 to 184.498 and 419B.112: (1) "CASA Volunteer Program" means a program that is approved or sanctioned by a juvenile court, has received accreditation from the National CASA Association and has entered into a contract with the statewide coordinating entity contracted with by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services under ORS 184.492 to recruit, train and supervise volunteers to serve as court appointed special advocates."

"...(a) Contract with a nongovernmental entity to serve as the statewide coordinating entity for the provision of court appointed special advocate services throughout this state. The nongovernmental entity must be a member of the National CASA Association and have a board or other membership structure that contains directors from the CASA Volunteer Programs in this state. At a minimum, the contract must include authority for the statewide coordinating entity to: (A) Contract with CASA Volunteer Programs; and (B) Disburse and expend moneys in the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund established in ORS 184.498 to CASA Volunteer Programs in this state."

From my understanding of the aforementioned legislation **[HB 2787]**, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is contracting the disbursements of state funds (taxpayer's money) directly to a third party for distribution to the CASA program. The relinquishing of control of taxpayer's money (my money) to a third party to disburse appropriations to support CASA functions is not acceptable. Why should DAS relinquish control and corresponding oversight and accountability of the Funds? **Will the "Audits Division" conduct periodic financial and performance audits?**

The "Distant Training and Learning Program" referred to in **[HB 2738]** is vague and ambiguous. Each area CASA serves has its' own distinct and unique "problems." The current CASA "Distant Training and Learning Program," if any, was not discussed. Why? This issue was not even referenced to justify the CASA's program expansion.

It is quite understandable CASA and its' cadre of non-profiters would support the self-serving legislations.

There is obviously "No" intent to provide any competitive programs thereby permanently solidifying CASA's position.

It is good to be the "King."

Respectfully submitted

/s/ David S. Wall