

February 22, 2021

House Committee on Human Services 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2754

Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Leif, Vice-Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Enhancing Domestic Violence Support Services is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda. Unfortunately, we know that domestic violence rates have escalated sharply during the COVID pandemic, and that there were not enough support services before the pandemic. Having support services in place for survivors and their children in all communities across Oregon is very important. In particular, we must ensure that we are able to provide appropriate services to families including children from Tribal nations and culturally specific communities.

Thank you for your consideration and service,

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement Director Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at <u>www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-</u> childrens-agenda

## The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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