



Adam Rodakowski

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To: Sen. Kate Lieber, Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Rep. Rob Nosse, Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Adam Rodakowski, Director of Foster Care, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.

Date: March 29, 2021

Re: Support for SB 5529

On behalf of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI) and the Foster Plus collaborative, we respectfully request your support for SB 5529 and ongoing funding of the Foster Plus collaborative. GOBHI is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and behavioral health Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) administrator that also provides various direct services statewide. Foster Plus is a group of ten Treatment Foster Care agencies that recruit and retain foster families across the state of Oregon. Our agencies partner with ODHS Child Welfare to support youth who otherwise may require placement into residential facilities, providing safe and affirming community based homes.

Foster Plus aligns with Child Welfare priorities in the 21-23 biennium by:

- **Increasing recruitment and retention of safe, diverse, and affirming foster families in Oregon**
 - 600,000+ advertisement views per month
 - 2994 new foster parent inquiries since launch on April 24, 2018
 - 2.8 new foster parent inquiries per day since launch
 - 70+ new foster parent inquiries in March 2021 alone
 - Online foster parent application process to reduce barriers to certification

- **Using shared data across Child Caring Agencies to inform decisions and performance**
 - Shared online foster parent recruitment and certification platform
 - Shared measurement of progress and outcomes for youth in Behavioral Health Treatment Foster Care

Through Foster Plus, agencies and key partners collaborate to build solutions for Oregon youth in need. By providing care and support at a critical moment in the life journey of youth, we assist in guiding them toward a healthier future. We are honored to fulfill this important role in partnership with ODHS Child Welfare.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Rodakowski MSW