



March 28, 2023

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Tuition for Foster Involved Youth**

Clackamas County supports SB 449: We applaud the previous work by the Oregon Legislature to fund college tuition for foster children advancing to higher institution. SB 449 expands that tuition allowance for children who have spent a designated amount of time in foster care but are no longer in foster care due to adoption.

Children in foster care and service providers are aware of the devastating decision between staying in foster care in order to gain fully covered tuition or being adopted into a forever home. We maintain this is not a choice that youth should have to make. The current policy particularly impacts older youth who are wards of the state but are in a position to be adopted.

Clackamas County has a number of programs that provide an array of services to individuals and families. We believe SB 449 would fill a key service gap, and help children and families for generations.

We urge a “yes” vote on SB 449.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.