

April 23, 2023

**House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services Oregon State
Capitol 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301**

Subject: Concerns with Senate Bill 865

Chair Representative Lisa Reynolds, Vice-Chair Representative Hoa Nguyen,
Vice-Chair Representative Anna Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

It is our understanding that the bill will be updated. Section 3 will be amended to look like this, “

“SECTION 3. ORS 109.270 is amended to read:

109.270. (1) Rules adopted by the Department of Human Services for home studies and placement reports under ORS 109.276 (7) and (8) must, at a minimum, require the department to:

(a) Consider each prospective adoptive parent on the basis of the prospective adoptive parent’s ability to meet the individual needs of the child for safety, attachment and well-being;

(b) Safeguard a child’s rights under ORS 419B.090 (3) by **except as provided in ORS 419B.654 (2), considering the current caretaker and relatives to have equal status and priority as prospective adoptive parents under ORS 419B.192**

(c) Give a child’s relatives and current caretaker a greater weight in the consideration of suitability as prospective adoptive parents as compared to the department’s consideration of other persons seeking to adopt a child who are not relatives or current caretakers[.]; **and**

(d) If an adoption is disrupted, consider any relative or current caretaker who was not initially selected by the department as the prospective adoptive parent to be considered as an adoptive resource.

(2) For purposes of this section, “current caretaker” has the meaning given that term in ORS419A.0

If section 3 is corrected, we withdraw our prior testimony and thank Senator Gelsler Blouin for her time.

The Gorden's
Klamath Falls, OR

Senator Chair Representative Lisa Reynolds, Vice-Chair Representative Hoa Nguyen, Vice-Chair Representative Anna Scharf, and Members of the Committee, thank you for reading my testimony.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

The Gorden's