

Submitter: Terry Ferebee  
On Behalf Of: Kids North West  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB1521

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to be heard

I am Terry Ferebee, the lead coordinator for the Crisis and Service Team (CAST) for Kids North West. Our department operates under the umbrella of the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Department. I am grateful for the opportunity to address you on this important matter.

While I understand there are concerns regarding Temporary Lodging and Temporary Lodging Prevention, mandating companies to be CCA certified will not alleviate the situation. Instead, it will impose an undue burden on child welfare services. This requirement will disqualify many contract providers, further straining a department already stretched thin with support from external contractors.

At Kids North West, we prioritize our clients above all else. Our Direct Support Professionals are deeply committed to their work, driven by their passion for helping others. This client-centered culture was instilled by Kathy and Jeff Lehmeyer at the inception of Kids North West and has persisted ever since. Despite already being licensed as a caregiver agency, obtaining an additional certification will not enhance our services in any meaningful manner.

I acknowledge that the current system is not without flaws, but diverting resources away from Child Welfare and its clients is counterproductive. These issues require collaborative efforts from all stakeholders to reach a viable solution. Instead of imposing additional requirements, let us work together to address these challenges while ensuring the well-being of the children and families we serve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.