

Submitter: Jamie Callahan
On Behalf Of: Adult Foster Homes
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1591

There is a serious shortage of adult foster homes in southern Oregon. Foster homes have closed, at a rapid rate, for a variety of reasons. It is so critical to provide additional foster home care, to our community. Our residents needed and deserve it! There are simply not enough beds available, and that is compounded by the fact that Foster Home is only allowed five beds in each home. Having six or seven beds in a foster home, solves a lot of problems! It allows foster homes to be profitable, when they are barely getting by already. It also allows the general community a larger chance of finding an available bed in a foster home. we work with foster homes every day, and the good ones rarely have availability. In fact, most rarely have availability! The state of Oregon desperately needs to consider allowing foster homes to have a seventh bed. The seventh bed will allow adult foster homes to provide better care, because they will have the financial resources from the money that they earn from that seventh bed, to hire additional caregiving and nursing staff. Not to mention the quality of food, and quality of life for the residents in general. From a hospitals standpoint, or a skilled nursing facility, or a referral agency that is constantly looking for vacancies in adult foster homes, this could be a total game changer for the state of Oregon! As the state of Oregon continues to witness adult foster homes closing, allowing adult foster homes to have additional beds could assist them in staying open, and potentially influence additional foster homes to re-open, because they will have the ability to become profitable.

I know from previous experience, as a foster home owner in the state of Oregon myself about 10 years ago, we were barely able to make ends meet with five residence. Especially in consideration of serving the Medicaid sector. Medicaid, he's so little to adult foster homes that they cannot stay open with three or four residents. They are barely able to make ends meet with five residents. By allowing them to have seven residence, you are putting them in a position of providing exemplary care, with a 1 to 7 caregiver to resident ratio, which is a zillion times better than any assisted-living community. Please, seriously consider allowing this to happen! It is so critically important for the well-being of our aging population in our nation.