

MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT OF OREGON
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PO BOX 12869
SALEM OR 97309-0869
503-588-8489

January 23, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Re: Court Care

Chair Hartman and Committee Members,

We are writing in support of continuing, and expanding, the necessary service that Court Care provides to our communities. Court users are often in the untenable position of balancing their need to attend a Court hearing, or seek a protective order, against the necessity of having a safe place for their children to stay while attending to Court business. We often see children brought into courtrooms during these hearings simply because their caretakers have no safe alternatives; this reality exposes children to adult issues in contexts that can be inappropriate and often scary to them.

Parents and family members are more able to focus on the issues in their case and meet their obligations if they know their children are being cared for – especially in a safe environment close by to the courthouse. Access to justice is improved by providing necessary childcare for those who cannot access our system without it. Court Care provides a much-needed service that should be maintained and expanded in order to serve the families in our communities. Please do not hesitate to contact our Court if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Hon. Thomas Hart
Hon. Tracy A. Fall
Hon. Courland Geyer
Hon. Lindsay Partridge
Hon. Shannon Bennett
Hon. Sean Armstrong
Hon. Audrey Broyles
Hon. Daniel Wren

Hon. Manuel Perez
Hon. Jodie Bureta
Hon. James Edmonds
Hon. Jennifer Gardiner
Hon. Amy Queen
Hon. Natasha Zimmerman
Hon. Michelle Vlach-Ing