

Submitter: Nathan Furgison
On Behalf Of: CASA of Marion County
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

My name is Nathan Furgison, and I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Oregon. I am writing to urge you to support HB 3196 and the -1 amendment to ensure CASA programs continue to serve the most vulnerable children in our state.

As a CASA, I have the privilege of standing beside children in foster care—children who have experienced unimaginable hardships, often removed from their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs. These children don't just need a case number in a system; they need someone who will fight for them, someone who will listen, and someone who will make sure they don't get lost in a bureaucratic shuffle. CASA provides that voice.

Without stable funding, CASA programs across Oregon will struggle to recruit, train, and support volunteers like me. I've seen firsthand how a CASA can change a child's life—how a scared and uncertain child can find stability, hope, and a future because they had someone consistently advocating for them. I've seen the relief in a child's eyes when they realize someone is in their corner, no matter what. But without funding, we risk leaving more children without that critical support.

HB 3196 and the -1 amendment ensure that CASA programs can continue this life-changing work. This is not just about numbers or budgets—it's about real children who need us to show up for them. It's about ensuring that no child in Oregon's foster system has to navigate their future alone.

I urge you to pass HB 3196 with the -1 amendment and invest in the well-being of Oregon's children. They deserve stability. They deserve advocacy. And most of all, they deserve to be heard.

Thank you for your time and for standing with Oregon's foster children.

Sincerely,
Nathan Furgison
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)