

Submitter: Vanessa Nordyke  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3196

As Executive Director of CASA of Marion County, I urge adoption of the amendment to include CASA programming and to pass HB 3196 out of committee.

CASA programs work one-on-one with Oregon foster youth. Foster youth face heightened risks of addiction, incarceration, and homelessness. CASA programs help to prevent all three of those things from happening to our kids. CASA uses a trauma-informed approach to improve health and educational outcomes for foster youth. For example, it is not uncommon for youth entering foster care to be reading two or three grades below their age. Many kids entering foster care have a history of poor school attendance, failing classes, and worse. But once assigned to CASA, we advocate for the educational supports to get kids back on track. This includes things like helping getting our kids signed up for summer school and tutoring, meeting with the child's teachers and school counselors to go over their grades, working with resource parents to help establish school-oriented daily routines, and so on. We also know that substance abuse is a huge driver of foster care placement. We aim to break the cycle of substance abuse by helping our foster youth find safe, permanent homes.

Thank you, and once again, I urge adoption of the amendment to include CASA programming and to pass HB 3196 out of committee.