

Submitter: GERI A BERG
On Behalf Of: SB 691
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB691

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

I am writing in favor of four Senate bills that will support Oregon's families, and in particular, the health and well being of our children: SB 692, SB 693, SB 694 and SB 695.

I am currently a retired pediatric social worker after 33 years as the Coordinator of Kaiser's Developmental Assessment Clinic. As a multidisciplinary team we served the

families of children from birth to 5 years who were not developing typically.

I went on to serve for six years as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for foster children in Multnomah and Columbia Counties.

I have been involved in gun safety efforts for over ten years and currently volunteering at the Clay Street Pantry in downtown Portland.

I have seen first hand in both my professional career, and volunteer service, the positive impact of services and the negative consequences of those services not being available.

Motivated by the CASA mission of "best interest of the child", I am deeply grateful for the many foster parents I have worked with who have rescued children from difficult

situations. But I often thought about if we had provided more help and resources to the parents of these children, they could have remained in their families. This is particularly

true in the months of pregnancy for mothers and the first months after birth.

SB 692, 693, 694, 695 from the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health addresses these issues, from a Perinatal Workforce to Child Poverty Reduction.

As a pediatric social worker, CASA, and volunteer in the community - as well as a mother of four, and grandmother of three - I fully support these measures for their upstream commitment to the health and well being of Oregon's children.

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