

Submitter: Cheryl Zwillinger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB911

We are writing today in support of SB911. As the ILP provider in Lane County, we are dedicated to helping Oregon foster youth build the skills they need to transition into adulthood successfully. The Looking Glass Community Services ILP program assists foster youth in navigating complex systems and accessing housing, healthcare, education and employment.

It is essential to sufficiently fund ILP services that allow providers to pay living wages and to retain well-trained and highly skilled staff. At the current funding level for ILP, we often experience turnover, as staff leave for better wages in other positions in social services. This scenario requires youth to change case managers several times. This can be traumatic for youth who often have few people that provide consistent support in their lives.

SB 911, if passed, would have a significant positive impact on our program and other ILP providers in the state. The bill provides the payment framework that ILP programs need for long term stability and allows them to continue to provide vital services to Oregon foster youth. Some of the immediate effects to our program will be our ability to retain well-trained and highly skilled employees, provide additional staff hours to support youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, have a lower staff to youth ratio, and allow for more intensive services. We strongly request SB 911 be passed out of committee.