

Submitter: Simon Fulford
On Behalf Of: Parrott Creek Child and Family Services
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB911

As Executive Director of Parrott Creek Child & Family Services, I support the passage of SB 911. As an organization that has been serving vulnerable youth from across Oregon since 1968, we are very aware of how inadequately funded many state programs are that support children in foster care. Sadly, many of these youth then feel abandoned by "the system" when they turn 18 and the independent living programs that are offered to them are wholly inadequate. And why are they inadequate? Because these services are underfunded and not able to provide the child-centered, trauma-informed, flexible and responsive support these youth need. SB 911 will ensure that the Oregon Department of Human Services adequately funds these essential programs so that children aging out of the foster care system can prosper, thrive and succeed like every other teenager in Oregon can and should. Thank you.