

Submitter: Jeni Canaday
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB909

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 909 because I believe that providing robust supports to families of children with complex emotional health needs is crucial. Without proper supports, many families end up having to place their children in out of home placements because they do not have the supports available to keep their children home with them. This leads to attachment issues, institutional trauma, and often times a path down the prison/institution pipeline for children who could have healed and thrived if their families would have been effectively resourced. The trauma impacts the entire family and creates even more mental health challenges. The medicaid entitlement has already been in place for the last 12 years, but it has not been utilized, even though we are witnessing an escalating mental health crisis in our child serving system. Families have been pleading for help and sharing their painful stories for long enough. Now it is time to act. This waiver is the right move because it focuses on prevention. Not only does this move the work upstream, but it saves the state money in the long run when families stay together, and children receive the critical supports they deserve in their homes, and in their communities. I urge you to vote yes on SB909 to show your support and commitment to children's mental health in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jeni Canaday
Disability Justice Advocate