



27 February 2025

RE: Support for HB 3224

Chair Harman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, and Vice-Chair Scharf:

My name is Ana Day, and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Community Programs, located in Lane County. Oregon Community Programs provides intensive outpatient behavioral health for children and families, as well as therapeutic foster care for young people referred from across the state.

I'm writing today to support House Bill 3224 to study, simplify, and streamline the background check process that our organization and many others across the state utilize.

There is no doubt that background checks are one of the most effective methods to protect the public, especially vulnerable young people. Because background checks are so essential, it seems crucial for the processes to access them to be clear, efficient, and quick. Yet, our current background check system in Oregon is often confusing, duplicative, and slow.

At my own organization, we have experienced delays in background checks that affect how quickly foster homes can be approved, delaying young people from being placed in programs that will meet their needs. Recently we encountered a situation where a therapeutic foster family was identified for a youth involved with the Oregon Youth Authority. However, the placement was unnecessarily delayed because the foster parents were required to submit fingerprints again to process their certification change, even though they had submitted fingerprints just the week before by the Dept. of Human Services! We know the Background Check Unit would welcome more people to manage the workload (which I support!), but it's not just a workload problem; it's a system problem.

We believe H.B. 3224 will examine and recommend system-level changes that will reduce wait times, administrative burdens, and unnecessary delays so clients at organizations like ours can get access to safe care when they need it.

Background checks are one of our state's most important child safety tools. Anything we can do to make this system work more quickly, efficiently, and accurately directly contributes to child safety and access to care.

Sincerely,

Ana Day, LMFT  
Executive Director  
Oregon Community Programs