

March 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Healthcare  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare:

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 945. I regret that I am unable to testify in person, but appreciate the opportunity to provide this written comment. I am a Clackamas County Commissioner, a Registered Nurse and a former Foster Parent. I am supporting this SB 945 as an individual Oregonian, not in my professional capacities.

As a former Foster Parent, I am acutely aware of the significant vulnerabilities for the children in our foster care system. This population is particularly at risk for adverse health outcomes. They need opportunities to be stable and healthy. We must afford these new residents the same coverage as Oregon-native individuals who have aged out of the foster care system. This legislation is affordable, smart and takes care of the most vulnerable in our community.

I urge your support for Senate Bill 945.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben West", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben West, MSN, BSN, RN  
Clackamas County Commissioner