

Submitter:	Jeff Picton
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1131

I am the co-founder of the Chintimini Wildlife Center and served as it's Executive Director until my retirement in 2018. During the 30 years that I worked at Chintimini, we grew from a backyard operation to one of the finest rehabilitation and environmental education facilities in the northwest, and provided quality care for 10's of thousands of injured and orphaned wildlife.

During this time, the most difficult aspect of the job was procuring sufficient funding to expand and improve our facilities and staffing. We relied on the generous support of our local community and some grant money, but have never received any funding from the state or federal government, even though Chintimini provides an invaluable public service for the residents of Oregon.

Over time several wildlife rehabilitation centers within western Oregon have closed their doors, often due to the difficulties of raising enough funds to keep their operations running. Chintimini has willingly stepped up and taken on the burden of absorbing the patient load from an ever expanding area, but to do so they need a little help.

The passing of SB 1131 would allow Chintimini to continue to meet the growing need for their services and would ensure that the wildlife and people of Oregon have this valuable resource available to them.