



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

LANE COUNTY

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**RE: HB 3940**

**March 31, 2025**

Chair Lively, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Kendra Jones and I am the Executive Director of CASA of Lane County, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for children in the foster care system in our community.

I am here today in opposition to HB 3940, a bill that would impose a tax that directly threatens the funding we receive through the Bottle Drop program. CASA of Lane County, along with more than 6,900 nonprofits across Oregon, receive \$5.5 million to support our vital missions. While I support efforts for wildfire relief and understand the critical nature of this work, it should not be at the expense of Oregon's low income residents, or the nonprofits providing vital services.

As the Executive Director of CASA, I can speak firsthand about the impact, not just to our organization, but also to vulnerable low income families and children. Unfortunately, neglect is overwhelmingly the result of poverty and other systemic issues faced by low-income families. Many of these families rely on programs like Bottle Drop returns to make ends meet, and if HB 3940 passes without the Dash-2 Amendments, these families will face additional burdens.

The children CASA advocates for are at a heightened risk because their parents are often struggling to survive in difficult economic conditions. By imposing this tax, you would not only be limiting resources for nonprofits like CASA, but you would also disproportionately impact low-income families, further limiting their ability to rely on Bottle Drop returns for survival.

At a time when we need to strengthen the resources available for vulnerable children and families, HB 3940, without the Dash-2 Amendments would do the opposite, draining funding from nonprofit organizations that provide services essential to the well-being of our community. CASA of Lane County alone serves over 400 children in foster care annually, and the loss of Bottle Drop funding would impact our ability to support these children and our volunteers, as well as the broader network of organizations that rely on these funds.

I urge you to adopt the Dash-2 Amendments to HB 3940.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kendra Jones  
Executive Director