



Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights



May 17, 2017

Representative Hayden is Proud to Stand for Kids

Representative Hayden announced today that HB 2216, which he co-sponsored, has been signed into law. This important piece of legislation will help to solidify family relationships between siblings who find themselves in foster care.

In brief, the law instructs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules establishing the "Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights" and to encourage participation by current and former foster children in developing the rules. Such rules will include current safeguards such as:

The right to be safe

The right to have contact with certain people

To be healthy

To learn and be informed, and to make decisions.

House Bill 2216 A takes another step in this in this vein on behalf of siblings by;

Outlining essential rights for siblings who are foster youth.

It Includes placement of siblings together when possible.

It outlines communication guidance.

It states that children should be placed with foster parents who are trained on the importance of sibling relationships, and

To Have more private and less restrictive communication with siblings.

To be notified in a timely manner of catastrophic events affecting siblings.

To be notified in an age-appropriate explanation if contact with a sibling is denied or prohibited.

To request an attorney advocate under certain circumstances.

To be provided with transportation to visit siblings.

To be informed of rights on at least an annual basis.

These and other safeguards included in HB 2216 will provide increasing benefits for our most important resource, our children.



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