



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

June 30, 2019

VOTE EXPLANATION ON HB 5050

I voted AYE on HB 5050 due to the many excellent initiatives in it, including:

- Funding and increased bonding capacity for affordable housing, like LIFT, Permanent Supportive Housing and Housing Stabilization Program (although I voted NO on HB 3050 since I believe we should provide more than \$25 million in lottery fund bonding for preservation, given we are leaving \$30 mil lottery bonding capacity on the table)
- \$2 mil for Hacienda CDC "Las Adelinas" Housing Project
- \$300K to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon runaway youth
- \$1.5 mil mental and behavioral health pilot project
- \$6 mil for community mental health programs
- \$43 mil for the One Integrated Eligibility and Medicaid eligibility

HOWEVER, there are many items in the bills that I believe do NOT serve the public good as much as the top priority bills advocated for by the House Committee on Human Services and Housing. Some of those questionable allocations include:

- \$5.4 mil Oregon State Fair (OSF, which was privatized in part to reduce state funding dependency) + \$3 mil for OSF Horse Barn + \$2 mil for OSF Poultry Barn
- \$.5 mil Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
- \$15 mil to Eugene YMCA
- \$5 mil Columbia Willamette Beaverton Hoop YMCA

I do not believe that these expenditures provide as much "public good" as bills which address Oregon's public health crisis in child abuse, child welfare, and addictions, which passed their policy committees but did not make it out of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Child Abuse Omnibus bill

The House committee on Human Services and Housing gave its *highest ranking* of all bills with fiscals scored to what is known as the Child Abuse Omnibus Bill. This bill was among the *top priority funding requests for all legislators who signed a support letter*; and was *my top personal bill request*.

This bill is the combination of two additional measures that also did not move out of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. They contained three appropriations - \$6 million for Child



Abuse Intervention Centers, \$1 million for Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study, and \$100K for Implementation of Erin's Law, totaling \$7.1 million/biennium.

This trio of bills emerged from a bipartisan, bicameral workgroup which met monthly from July 2018 through January 2019 to examine the gaps in our child abuse system. We examined the many good bills being developed last summer and fall, such as the behavioral health components of the Student Success bill, new requirements for TSPC, and violence prevention. The concepts developed by our workgroup would *fill remaining gaps*.

We sent Ways & Means *173 letters* (just a portion of the over 200 letters sent directly to people's individual legislators) *in support of \$7.1 million* from the Criminal Fines Account (CFA) or General Fund. This investment would save heartache and millions of dollars in future decades by reducing mental health and addictions, lost productivity, and the myriad of consequences that result from childhood trauma.

Independent Living Program for older foster youth

The bill relating to transition services was not voted out of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. This bill would have expanded the age of foster youth aging or nearly aging out of foster care and would have provided more monthly cash assistance, housing assistance, and other support services as they enter adulthood without parental support. As in the 4 past biennia, this was the top priority of foster youth who gathered for a multi-day workshop held a few months before the long session. In all past years, their bills have passed with unanimous or near unanimous support. This is the first year their bill failed. Many of my committee members agreed that not only are these investments so important for this population, but that *we should listen to what they say they most need*. The foster youth reduced their request from \$8.4 million to \$4 million, but it still failed.

Family Dependency Treatment Court

Both Human Services and Housing Committee vice chairs and I have been passionate about stemming the flow of kids into foster care by providing more treatment for behavioral health and addictions. The bill relating to the Family Dependency Treatment Court would have required nearly \$15 million in General Fund and would have set up pilots in certain counties to end parents to treatment as opposed to jail, where their kids are removed from them and placed in foster care.

I also had hoped the House would have included more resources in HB 5050 for the Family Preservation Project, CASA expansion, Home Ownership Repair, and Local Government capacity building for housing, and other bills that support our most vulnerable populations. Because our funding is limited and will never meet all the needs, we need to prioritize the funding for the causes that most need public support and that will most provide a humane and economic return on investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected, fluid strokes that form a cursive-style name.

Alissa Keny-Guyer