

FARRAH CHAICHI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 35

June 11, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on [SB 875-B](#) ^{sc}

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Thank you for accepting my vote explanation for [SB 875](#), ^b ^{sc} which provides updates to the Foster Children and Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights. It promotes the dignity and respect of Oregon children in foster care. The bill recognizes that rights are meaningless without knowledge of those rights and the opportunity to uphold them. The bill grants unimpeded and unmonitored access to counsel, therefore giving choice to vulnerable youth and restoring their sense of self-determination and autonomy.

Originally, this bill was great. **This bill is still very good.** However, the -A2 amendments made after the bill came to the House have caused me to make the difficult decision of voting "no" on the Floor.

The Foster Children and Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights protects fundamental rights like access to education, access to basic needs, safety from abuse, representation from an attorney, their ability to maintain a relationship with their family and siblings, and other important freedoms. Sadly, the -A2 Amendment removed one right that I see as one of the most fundamental to all human beings - the freedom to believe and practice any religion, or to choose not to practice any religion at all.

I know that all parties involved in protecting foster youth in Oregon will continue to update and uphold these rights and that the Legislature has committed to being involved in this work. Nevertheless, at this time, I cannot support the B-Engrossed version of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Farrah Chaichi".

Representative Farrah Chaichi
House District 35

