



Carla C. Piluso

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 50

900 Court St. NE, H-491

Salem, OR 97301

503-986-1450

rep.carlapiluso@state.or.us

March 9th, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rachel Gowland

503-986-1450

Representative Piluso's Foster Youth Sibling Bill of Rights Passes Unanimously Out of the Oregon House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Representative Piluso's bill, the Foster Sibling Bill of Rights (HB 2216), passed unanimously out of committee this morning with bipartisan support.

This bill defines rights for foster siblings, including the right of foster youth to live in homes where foster parents have been trained on the importance of sibling relationships, require more privacy for sibling communication, be notified in a timely manner if a sibling experiences a catastrophic event, and develop a contact plan if siblings are not placed in foster care together.

The bill concept was brought to Representative Piluso by foster youth, who developed the concept at the Oregon Foster Youth Connection's 2016 Annual Policy Conference and went on to name it as their number one legislative priority for 2017. Alexis Baska, a foster youth who testified on the bill, told the committee that "keeping in contact with my siblings would've helped reduce the trauma, anxiety, and depression that I experienced" while in foster care.

Representative Piluso agrees that this bill is important because "when youth are separated from their siblings, they lose an important connection that can help them survive and move forward in very difficult circumstances. Keeping siblings together is good for children and families." The Representative will carry the bill on the House floor.

###