



## **Carla C. Piluso**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Rep. Piluso's Foster Youth Sibling Bill of Rights Passes Oregon House**

*HB 2216 passed with bipartisan support.*

House Bill 2216, the Foster Sibling Bill of Rights, passed the Oregon House this morning on a unanimous vote. The 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 Rep. Carla Piluso (D-Gresham) 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. Legislative advocates from the Oregon Foster Youth Connection were present in the Gallery today. The bill passed 59-0.

"Maintaining contact with siblings is critical to stability and positive development for our foster youth," says Rep. Piluso. "This bill helps us to ensure that they can find comfort and support with their siblings in very difficult times."

Representatives on both sides of the aisle expressed support for this bill. Republican Rep. Hack said she supports the bill because "foster children face enough adversity and trauma and should never be left without the ability to communicate with their siblings."

Rep. Piluso added: "When youth are separated from their siblings, they lose an important connection that can help them survive and move forward in tough circumstances. Keeping siblings together is good for children and families."

The bill moves to the Senate for consideration.

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