



from the office of

**SENATOR
KIM THATCHER**

April 16, 2019

To: Governor Kate Brown
Department of Human Services Director Fariborz Pakseresht
Child Welfare Director Marilyn Jones

Concerning: Oregon's foster system emergency

Oregon's foster system is in crisis.

We need a statewide assessment of every child in our state's foster system so that they are accounted for, safe and secure. We need to know where each child is, and we need to reevaluate their placements. Every child who was shipped across state lines must be accounted for as well. There is no time too soon, and no cost too high to ensuring their well-being. Meetings and hearings, and promises and press releases aren't cutting it. These children are the state's responsibility and with a massive amount of reports it appears they are in danger.

I am formally requesting to the governor, the department of human services and child welfare that there is a statewide assessment started and that the necessary funds are diverted to make this happen and completed as soon as possible, including the governor calling for a state of emergency and working with the federal government to address this crisis. Please let me know what I can do to be of assistance.

Let's address this crisis,

Sen. Kim Thatcher