



February 14, 2018

House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB 4009

Children First represents the interests of Oregon's 880,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive. Beginning in 2015, Children First has worked with our partners to identify legislative proposals that will help achieve that vision. Our partners have determined that we need to make changes to how we handle removing children from families, as well as recognizing that circumstances change and parents sometimes deserve a second chance by allowing the court to set aside termination of parental rights judgement when it is in the children's best interest.

Given Oregon's history of discrimination in child welfare and the current disproportionate population of American Indian and African-American children currently in the system, Children First supports the goals of HB 4009. We recognize additional amendments are coming and will continue to work with advocates to realize the goals of the legislation.

Sincerely,  
James Barta, Strategic Director