

Senate Health & Human Services

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HB24-1031 Accessibility for Persons in Child Welfare Matters

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ashley Chase For themselves	<p>Hello, my name is Ashley Chase, and I am a staff attorney and legislative liaison for the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR). OCR is the state agency that oversees attorneys who represent child and youth, or their best interests, in every judicial district across the state in 12 different case types, predominately dependency and neglect cases. OCR participated in the Child Welfare Interim Study Committee and was happy to see this bill come forward and are here in support today.</p> <p>It is vital to ensure children, youth, and families, understand what is happening in their child welfare proceedings, by having access to important documents and court orders in their own language.</p> <p>Information comes at families fast and furious at the beginning of these proceedings and often children, youth, and families are in the middle of trauma, dealing with substance abuse, mental health issues and more. As you know, information may land differently or be absorbed better later in time, perhaps after treatment or once you are further removed from the traumatic event. This makes it even more important for children, youth, and families to have these documents to go back to on their own time and in their own language.</p> <p>This is a good step to ensure better accessibility for children, youth, and families in child welfare proceedings and we ask you to support 24-1031.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>