

January 27, 2026
Testimony in Support of LD 1922

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Kari Taylor, and I'm here today in support of LD 1922.

I'm speaking as a mother, and as someone with lived experience. I know what it looks like when a person is in active addiction, and I know what it looks like when that same person enters recovery and becomes unrecognizable from who they used to be.

Years ago, I was raising my children while living with a substance use disorder. Addiction is a disorder, not a moral failing, and at the time, mine was untreated.

During that period, Child Protective Services became involved in my life. I was accused of neglect, and my sons were removed from my home. One was 10 years old. The other was 3. I won't go into the details of that experience today, but I can say this clearly: it was the most painful and terrifying time of my life.

And I want to be honest about something else.

When my children were removed, I did not immediately enter recovery. I did not suddenly become well. What I learned during that time was how to survive the system. I learned what to say. What to hide. How to look "stable" on paper. I learned how to get through it.

Six months later, I got my boys back, but my substance use disorder was still there. This is one of the most important things I can tell you today: punishment and fear do not automatically create recovery. Healing takes time. It takes readiness. It takes support. It takes people who refuse to give up on you, even when you're not ready to change yet.

Eventually, I did change.

I entered recovery years later, and it transformed everything. It changed my parenting, my relationships, and the way I move through the world.

Today, I've been in recovery for over eight years. My sons are now 21 and 27, and I have amazing relationships with them. We are close. We are healthy. We are connected.

I'm sharing this because LD 1922 reflects something I know to be true: people can change.

A parent's past involvement with CPS, especially when it did not involve violence, should not quietly follow them forever and limit their future. It should not block employment opportunities and stability years after someone has done the work to rebuild their life.

This bill matters because, right now, a CPS record can prevent someone from working with youth, even years later. This issue was brought to my attention directly through an organization that contracts with DHHS, where people with CPS involvement may be barred from roles that include youth engagement.

That matters. Because those are often the roles where lived experience is most valuable. Addiction is already one of the most stigmatized experiences a parent can have. When CPS records function as a permanent scarlet letter, we are not protecting families. We are permanently punishing people for surviving their worst chapter.

LD 1922 helps parents move forward. It helps people work. It helps families rebuild. It recognizes recovery as real.

I am standing in front of you today as proof that recovery is real and that a person should not be sentenced for life based on a chapter they have outgrown.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to support LD 1922.

Respectfully,

Kari Taylor
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