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| Serving children, youth, and families with special needs in the Mid-Willamette Valley & Central Coast since 1938.Board of DirectorsJon Johnson, *Chair*Patrick Monaghan, *Vice-Chair*Dale Hoppe, *Secretary*Ron Rufener, *Treasurer*Michael Hansen, *Chair Emeris*Bob CannonIzzy CavazosAugusto HernandezMarypat HillDennis KeenanNancy KeimKaren LambStan Mazur-HartMark MiedemaMaria PalacioMichael RohwerJames T. Seymour*Executive Director*office | 3737 Portland Rd. NE, Salempost | P.O. Box 20400, Salem, OR 97307phone | 503.390.2600www.ccswv.orgA 501[c]3 Nonprofit AgencyCOAlogo_BW_smallCouncil on Accreditationfor Children & Family Services,Behavioral Health Services, andGroup Living ServicesUW Logo smallA Forever Home for Everyone | March 19, 2014State School Funding Task ForceTestimony Thank you for allowing me to share some thoughts on behalf of Catholic Community Services (CCS) and the Oregon Alliance of Childrens Programs (OACP) regarding this important issue.Catholic Community Services has been actively supporting children, youth and families since 1938. Our organization employs approximately 400 people, with foster parents and volunteers we have a workforce of 500. This year we will serve children, adults and families that total over 2,000 individuals in 26 social services programs from six Oregon counties. The people we serve are the poor and vulnerable, the disenfranchised citizens of Oregon who are living on the margin every day. Many of our customers experienced severe trauma in early childhood and are trying to cope with toxic stress levels that keep them from thriving in their families, their relationships and their community.It is unfair that children of color, socio-economically disadvantaged and children who are living on the margin for whatever reason do not receive the same level of educational funding as the other 99% of children in the State of Oregon. These are the children who deserve a “hand-up” as the old saying goes, a gentle lift and the extra academic support they need to move past the burdens they carry and succeed as well educated Oregonians.The LCTC funding formula that is currently in place will hold many of these children back from thriving and create what is known as forced institutional poverty. We need a model that is cost based, based on the needs of the students and at the minimum holds parity with the K-12 model. Please consider moving the LTCT students into the State School Funding formula to allow the same opportunities as exist for other students under the State School Fund. Any issues of inequity need to be resolved in favor of the children, these are the future citizens of our state. The investment made now will have a return on lower costs in the future; this return will show up in reduced juvenile justice, corrections, human services and healthcare costs. The economic advantage of this wise decision will also display itself through increased employment, higher tax revenues and a healthier community.Through your leadership we can make an impact that will improve our communities and reduce the costs within the system resulting in less crime, less abuse, less neglect and better lives for the people of this state.Submitted by,Joshua K. Graves, MBA, QMHAChief Administrative OfficerCatholic Community Services |