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LICENSED IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

March 8, 2021

Re: *Summary testimony HB 3035, 3/9/21*

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I write to support HB 3035 as an innovative and much-needed tool to address improvements for health care in prison.

I represent with a team of 30 attorneys with 400 cases on behalf of prisoners across the state, most with serious medical conditions. The cases we litigate almost all involve chronic health issues without adequate care over time that continue while in prison.

Our clients' physical and mental health deteriorates absent adequate care, impairing their general well-being and overall quality of health, resulting in costly litigation.

With the cost of litigation borne by the state for both defense and plaintiff, it would make much more sense to provide health care advocates able to assist incarcerated Oregonians access constitutionally adequate health care instead of protracted, expensive suffering and litigation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s/ Tara Herivel

Tara Herivel