



March 10, 2021

To: Sen Gelser, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

From: Katie Rose, Chair, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Support for SB 710 with amendments, modifying allowed and prohibited uses of restraint of children in care by developmental disabilities residential facilities.

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Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of more than 40 organizations and individuals across Oregon that come together to advocate for the services to further the values outlined in ORS 427.007: to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) to exercise self-determination, living and working in the most integrated community settings, and providing services for families to raise their children at home. Our members represent advocacy groups (including self-advocacy organizations), family peer supports, DD residential providers, DD supported employment providers, and Support Services Brokerages.

Behavior is communication. When we experience strong emotions or challenging situations, we all sometimes behave in ways that we might not choose under less charged circumstances. In the IDD service system, we strive to support people through behaviors that may threaten their own or someone else's safety in a way that honors their human dignity while keeping them and those around them safe. This work can be difficult, and in order to do our best with this trust relationship, we must continually adapt and incorporate new methods and approaches. SB 710 aims to support that continuous improvement by refining laws and reporting practices.

We support this concept, and look forward to reviewing the amendments currently pending, and hope to support language that will ensure that Oregonians with IDD can continue to expect the best from their services.