



April 27, 2023

Good afternoon, Chair Fahey and members of the House Rules Committee.

For the record, my name is Royce Bowlin. I speak not just as the CEO of the Oregon Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to championing and advocating for the health and well-being of children, families and communities across Oregon.

I'm here in full support of HB3333 and hope you too will support this important legislation.

Briefly, the Alliance is an association whose members work in partnership to recognize and respond to the complexities of behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, emotional challenges, and trauma. They provide an array of critical services for children, youth, and families including behavioral and mental health services, homeless youth services, therapeutic residential care, and prevention services, along with foster care, adoption, family reunification, education, and substance use treatment.

Most importantly, I'm the proud parent of a youth with severe special needs who came to our family directly from Oregon's foster care system. I've been investigated by OTIS numerous times (all unfounded) and believe there's a better way to protect our youth and regulate programs and services.

Unintentionally, the existing way of determining abuse or neglect has unintentionally resulted in a culture of fear for staff working with children and youth.

HB3333 provides a pathway forward and the System of Care Advisory Council is the best existing venue to work through some of these important questions because their membership brings is a diversity of perspectives, this includes youth and families with lived experience.

In addition, HB3333 provides resources to train both state and community-based organizations staff.

In closing, I encourage you to support HB3333. This will help Oregon's youth and children.

Thank you,

Royce Bowlin