



May 10, 2023

Chair Reynolds and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services.

This letter is an update to our initial written testimony in March 2023.

At the Alliance, we and our membership strive every day to support children, youth, and their families to thrive. If SB823 -5 amendment is passed in its current format, it would have unintended consequences that at the end-of-the-day negatively impact on children, youth, and their families' by further reducing services capacity. The Oregon Alliance shares the desire to have a strong oversight process to ensure accountability, and more engagement is needed before passing this legislation.

The Oregon Alliance is a non-profit dedicated to championing and advocating for the health and well-being of children, families, and communities across Oregon. We connect with community thought leaders and our partners in government, allied fields, and the private sector to bring together the most effective policies, best practices, and resources to help kids live healthier lives and for families and communities to thrive in every corner of state. We closely collaborate to understand and respond.

Senator Gelser has worked with us and other stakeholders on revisions to the initial bill resulting in the .5 amendment.

While many changes have been made, we remain concerned about the level of access to completed abuse reports by a wide array of individuals and parties. We believe this threatens the privacy of the victims.

We would change our objections if more revisions were made around limiting who could access reports, limiting the physical release of these records, and requiring notification to the youth and their family. We are also concerned about Section 1 paragraph 4(b)C and 4(b)D which permits disclosure to:

(C) Persons who received or is receiving services at the state-authorized program which the alleged abuse occurred.

(D) Parents or guardians of minor children who received or are receiving services from the state-authorized program at which the alleged abuse occurred.

Other than the victim and guardian/parent, the only other individuals or groups who should be able to access a full report; first, must have a legitimate reason to access the report. This could include state agency staff that provide program oversight, law-enforcement, Secretary of State, or for the purpose of improving the quality of services.



If the individual is under 18-year-old and substantiated of abuse of another minor, it is unclear what information is released to the victim and their parents about the individual and abuse. Further discussion is needed regarding this topic.

We need a little more time to work through our areas of concern. I have reached out to Senator Gelser-Blouin with these same concerns.

In closing, children and youth have the right to expect their life events and traumas to be kept private and only shared by them. SB 823 allows more access and less privacy for children and youth.

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Again, I want to thank Senator Gelser Blouin for listening to and addressing most of the concerns.

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