

Submitter: Amy Fellows  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB909  
February 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services  
RE: SB 909

Chair Senator Gelser Blouin and members of the committee-

My name is Amy Fellows, I am from Eugene and I am writing in strong support of SB 909.

If Oregon had in place what SB 909 and the previous already passed Culture of Yes SB 1557 proposed when this Psych Under 21 program was first available through the Affordable Care Act it could have saved my family a lot of trauma that still impacts us 10 years later.

If we had the option to get more in home supports sooner, referred to a program like SB 909 proposes, through the IFSP (early childhood intervention) process or by our child psychiatrist we could have avoided a traumatizing hospital stay that severely impacted our attachment and connection that we have had to work years to reestablish. Having access to PSW/DSP type in home supports would have given me a break and time to support my own mental health so I could better co-regulate my child. This time would have allowed me to learn more about Collaborative Problem Solving, supporting their sensory needs and work on being a better co-regulator.

A further barrier to mental health supports when a child is in mental health crisis is having commercial insurance. When we moved from Portland to Eugene (where we had family support) while still in the Intensive Community Treatment Services period with private insurance, I was unable to find any mental health professionals to support my child. The only places that would support a child fresh from crisis only took OHP. This is an issue for many families and why SB 909 program could be so transformational for children in our state as we recover from the collective trauma of the pandemic.

I have been in Family Leaders meetings through OHA Children's Behavioral Health for the last year where they hired University of Connecticut consultants to meet with parents and discuss, do focus groups and wrote reports about the need for a program wasting time when we all know we have a youth mental health crisis and

providing supports and services to the most vulnerable families in crisis has been needed for years. That process was a waste of tax dollars that could have gone to setting up the system for this new program. I urge you to pass SB 909 and require OHA to implement this program as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Amy Fellows, MPH  
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