

Submitter: Michaela McCormick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

I strongly urge your committee to oppose HB3835, a measure that would remove vital protections for children with disabilities. As a person with a close personal friend who was severely abused as a child and has now suffered decades of trauma, isolation, constant pain and dysfunction, and irreparable shame, I have witnessed the devastating effects of their not being protected from harm. HB3835 would limit sexual abuse investigations, restrict DHS investigations of all types of abuse, deem illegal seclusion and restraint practices not to be child abuse, remove nearly all independent oversight of DHS, allow DHS to send already traumatized children to unsafe out-of-state facilities, gut Oregon restrictions on seclusion and restraints, and enable DHS to house foster youth in homeless shelters. At a time when our federal government is eliminating so many services, including those to children, we in Oregon need to hold the line against such callousness and irresponsibility. In fact we need to step up our efforts to ensure the welfare of some of our most vulnerable citizens, children. We are now in a time when empathy is being disparaged and our responsibility to each other is being sacrificed to individual and corporate gain. You in the Oregon legislature can set an example where such individualism and greed is challenged by compassion and generosity.

Thank you,
Michaela McCormick