

March 18, 2025

**RE: Oppose HB 3835**

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

I live in Oregon, and I'm writing in opposition to HB 3835. I am shocked and disappointed that the legislature is even considering HB 3835. This is a dangerous bill that fundamentally guts critical protections of children and teens! We all should take care of our most vulnerable Oregonians—especially DHS, it's their job!

I regularly see stories about child abuse and lack of investigations in the news, and DHS commonly plays a large part in those horrible stories. Why would anyone want to limit abuse investigations and hurt thousands of children in the foster care system, in public schools, individuals held by the Oregon Youth Authority, and youth with developmental disabilities more? That's exactly what will happen if HB 3835 passes, and legislators who voted for it will be to blame.

A lot more than youth safety and constituent votes are at risk. If HB 3835 passes, the state will be more vulnerable, too, with protections against child abuse and neglect eliminated, investigations limited, and nearly all independent oversight of DHS removed, including by juvenile courts. If HB 3835 passes, a child will have to die or be permanently disfigured for the state to investigate illegal seclusion and restraint practices at school, and DHS will be allowed—again—to leave foster youth in homeless shelters instead of finding them safe and loving homes.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3835 and protect Oregon's children and teens. They deserve it, and it's the right thing to do. Please don't take DHS at their word that weakening the law is a good thing. Every kid in Oregon needs you to Vote "No!" on HB 3835!

Sincerely,  
Penny FitzMaurice  
Portland, OR 97225