



# Oregon Alliance

3/18/2025

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3585, a critical step toward ensuring the stability and effectiveness of Oregon's child and family services. As the Interim CEO of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs, I represent a coalition of over thirty organizations providing essential services—including proctor care, therapeutic foster care, shelter, and residential support—to children, youth, and families across our state.

One of our highest priorities is ensuring that there are enough beds available when children need them. However, this goal cannot be met without a strong, well-supported workforce. The dedicated professionals in this field work tirelessly to provide high-quality care, yet they face significant barriers due to a regulatory system that fosters fear rather than growth.

Recruiting and retaining staff is an ongoing challenge, not because of a lack of passion or commitment, but because the investigative process is often traumatizing. Employees and foster parents who make a mistake—or even face confusion about supervision requirements—can find themselves under prolonged investigation, uncertain of their future. Many leave the field entirely, not due to a lack of dedication, but because of the personal and professional risks.

I have seen firsthand the emotional toll this takes. A dedicated employee who made a single mistake spent months under investigation, not knowing if she would have a job at the end of it. Foster parents, fearful of how an inquiry might impact their own livelihoods, have considered walking away. These experiences do not create a stronger workforce or better outcomes for children; they create instability, burnout, and reluctance to serve.

To improve the quality of care for Oregon's most vulnerable children, we must move away from a punitive, fear-based approach and embrace a system that prioritizes learning, continuous improvement, and support for those on the front lines. HB 3585 offers a pathway to that necessary shift.

I urge you to support this legislation and help us build a system that supports our workforce, strengthens our services, and ultimately improves the lives of the children and families we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vera Stoullil  
CEO, Oregon Alliance

**Empowering Organizations,  
Transforming Lives**