

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

To the honorable assembly of the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Kaleb Gambee, young active voting advocate of the SOCAC's Youth Council. Good morning to each and every one of you before me as well as those who traveled to be present and participating here today, along with my gratitude. As Co-chair of the Oregon youth Addiction Alliance, starting to create system of meaning, coming from a place of care and intent driven by youth informed policy starts at its core, a foundation that also reflects our personal values. After session study and consensus of support both within our youth council, as well as within our structure house of SOCAC throughout our process of care utilizing the Gare tool metric system to be mindful of racial impacts and equality within our State. As a whole consensus (although with some reservations, already addressed, in previous sessions, and from many complex perspectives and lived experiences) and the chance to hear out earnestly others to come this decision in bearing testimony. I am here in support of House Bill 3835, an alternative HB concept is a detour from the direction in which we are trailblazing. As a young person who had the opportunity to participate HB 3835 core construct as this articles development, and active voting member of the system of care legislation as well.

This bill is not just legislation—it is what we make it. Hope for youth like me who have endured harm in silence, and who deserve accountability for the wrongful practices of restraint and seclusion. When I was in state care, I witnessed wrongful restraints. I will spare you detail on personal restraints and seclusions forced on myself as a young teenager. Can you imagine me? A trouble maker? I will admit I was a lot; my parents did not have the tools and resources in Lane County and had few to no affordable options here in Oregon at the time is my understanding. During my stays in various custody's, traumatizing actions, that were never reported, never reviewed. Most importantly and the think I will always remember these actions were never justified. Instead of offering me care and compassion, these same systems entrusted with my wellbeing. These organizations principally placed blamed me, a struggling youth who acted out needing help, not harm.

Stated in section 6 these recommendations delegate the responsibility for legal actions to investigate wrongful harm. Having been placed by the state as a youth in situations leading to having experienced wrongful restraint and harm go without

report or review for accountability, I strongly support this measure of investigating wrongful harm and having the oversight to do these investigations exterior to the ones in house, and reviewed regularly by the system of care. This is a critical principle of accountability to ensure the safety of our youth and a provision regarding the decision made because of the lack of available culturally specific care for out-of-state placement an experience that was not considered during my personal lived journey. Regarding this modified provision to address, the lack of trauma informed needs, prevent harm in both within and out of state placements. The deep frustration and pain of feeling invisible, of being left without a voice, this story is something I carry and compels me to share with this committee today.

As someone who has experienced the devastating effects of wrongful restraint and seclusion during my time in out of state residential settings as well as seen wrongful restraint in state care, I reflected deeply on how these encounters made me feel as a child who experienced these harms during my time out of state custody care (that was not always reported), I humbly offer firsthand the harm caused by the lack of oversight and failure to investigate these actions. Harm to this day still feels invisible in the eyes of the state.