

LISA REYNOLDS, MD
STATE SENATOR
District 17



OREGON STATE SENATE

Testimony in Support of HB 3835

March 20th, 2025
House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
Hearing Room E

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address this bill. For the record, my name is Lisa Reynolds, and I serve as State Senator for Oregon's Senate District 17, in addition to still being a practicing pediatrician serving patients and families in Multnomah & Washington Counties. I come today in support of HB 3835.

While we continue to develop long-term strategies to prevent crises, we must also ensure that caregivers—trained professionals—are equipped to manage crisis situations effectively and safely, ensuring the protection of the child, staff, and everyone involved.

Toward that end, my support of this modest fix to previously passed legislation, which I supported, is **informed by the providers**, including my colleagues in child psychiatry AND the programs across the state, several of which I have visited.

I share Dr. Ajit Jetmalani's vision of building a trauma-informed system of care for our children. It begins by creating healthy work environments for those caring for our youth, where they are empowered to use their empathy, emotional regulation, and curiosity to help children struggling with their emotions. And not to live in constant fear.

I am also informed by my brother. I have shared that my brother Pat suffers from chronic, severe, mental illness. When he is well, on his meds, he is a loving brother, son, and uncle. He plays the guitar, writes songs, and reads literature. This is his current status, otherwise I would not be able to even talk about him this morning.

I know - and it's painful to recount - that there have been times when Pat has needed interventions like restraints to protect himself and those around him. It's the least bad option when he is very dysregulated. I'm grateful for his caregivers who take on this very very hard work. We cannot add extra strain to this very very hard work. It's brutal for me to talk about this, about my loving brother, but these are the difficult conversations and circumstances of severe mental illness.

I continue to be committed day in and day out in the upstream measures to prevent the crises this bill seeks to mitigate.

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Please consider HB 3835 as a modest step to honor our caregivers and our patients.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD
Senate District 17

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