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March 17, 2025

Oregon House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

As the clinical leadership team at Madrona Recovery, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 3835, which aims to enhance the welfare of young people in Oregon. At Madrona Recovery, we are privileged to serve adolescents who are navigating the challenges of mental health and substance use disorders. This responsibility is one we take with great humility and care, recognizing the profound impact our work has on the lives of the youth and families we support.

We want to acknowledge the difficulty and anxiety that family members and care providers experience when trying to support a child who may be escalating towards acute agitation. The stress and uncertainty in these situations can be overwhelming for both the child and the caretaker. House Bill 3835 is crucial in this context as it clarifies the language around crisis intervention, allowing caretakers to more consistently and confidently practice non-violent interventions that they are trained to perform.

Our organization provides comprehensive and compassionate care to adolescents. We understand that there are times when youth may experience agitation or aggression, often in the context of mood instability or acute withdrawal symptoms from street drugs. These situations require sensitive and informed interventions to ensure the safety and well-being of both the youth and the care providers involved.

House Bill 3835 addresses critical issues that directly impact the well-being of the young people we serve. By clarifying language around wrongful restraints, the bill promotes safety and more humane treatment practices. These changes are essential to prevent the long-term trauma that can result if interventions are not properly conducted according to guidelines or best practices.

In conclusion, we believe that House Bill 3835 represents a significant advancement in the protection and care of young people in Oregon. We urge the members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services to support this important legislation. Together, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for our youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Han Liang MD, Medical Director

Paul Bryant, LCSW, CADC 3, Executive Director

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