



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Date: March 20, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair Annessa Hartman
The Honorable Vice-Chair Hoa Nguyen
The Honorable Vice-Chair Anna Scharf
Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Bennett Garner, MD, Vice-Chair
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association Legislative Committee

RE: HB 3835, Seclusion and Restraint Reform

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf and members of the committee:
My name is Dr. Bennett Garner and I serve as the Vice-Chair of the OPPA Legislative Committee. OPPA supports HB 3835. The reason that I support this bill is that I have definitely seen an increase in the difficulty of getting aggressive children and youth admitted to residential treatment since the adoption of the current law. My observation has been corroborated when I've spoken to others that have knowledge of admission decisions being made by residential treatment programs.

I've spent over 20 years of my career in inpatient and residential child and adolescent settings. During that time I have seen significant changes in treatment approaches that have dramatically reduced the numbers of seclusions and restraints. Despite these significant improvements, the treatment of children and adolescence with complex difficulties still occasionally requires these interventions. Legislation and regulation that increases the risk to providers when they accept youth with the most complex presentations result in poorer outcomes for these individuals and their families and means that the neediest youth and their families do not get the treatment they deserve.

Please support HB 3835.

