



19 March 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
Oregon Legislature

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

RE: House Bill 3835

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the **Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency** in Salem. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk, and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually, we provide more than \$80 million in services and direct client assistance for housing, homelessness, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs to more than 60,000 Oregonians in poverty. I also serve as the Vice President for Legislative Affairs at the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, sit on the Housing Committee of the Racial Justice Council, and previously was a member of the House Bill 2100 Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities, and recently Chaired the Legislature's Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge.

I am writing to express my strong support of House Bill 3835, which addresses longstanding challenges in ensuring the safety, stability and wellbeing of children in care. I have seen firsthand the impact that the gaps in Oregon's child welfare system have had on children and families. Oregon is facing a crisis in youth mental health and child welfare systems, House Bill clarifies definitions regarding restraint and seclusion practices, while also expanding treatment access thus increasing support for youth with complex needs.

By creating consistent standards regarding restraint and seclusion practices across different child serving settings House Bill 3835 eliminates confusion and ensures that safety regulations are enforced equitably. It will also create an impartial investigative process within the Department of Education to increase oversight of school-based restraint and seclusion practices. Ensuring that violations are addressed transparently and fairly, increasing trust in the system.

Furthermore, House Bill 3835 removes barriers and expands access to behavioral health services and specialized care for youth. By establishing explicit exceptions regarding out of state specialized care for children in foster care. While simultaneously removing in-state barriers to treatment resulting in better oversight of placements. Allowing the state to guarantee they receive the necessary care.

House Bill 3835 is a crucial step toward ensuring that vulnerable youth receive the protection and services they need to thrive by creating a more accountable and effective system for Oregon's children.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones  
Executive Director