



March 20, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Behavioral Health & Healthcare
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Submitted electronically via OLIS

RE: HB 2015 - 1 Amendment

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi & Vice-Chair Nelson & Members of the Committee:

Trillium Family Services stands as Oregon's sole provider of a full continuum of mental health services for youth ages 5-24 years, supported by a staff of 685 employees. A diverse array of programs across the state ensure we can make a meaningful impact on the mental health of Oregon's children, families, and communities. Our mission, *Building Brighter Futures with Children, Families, and Communities*, speaks to our core belief that caring for mental health strengthens not only individuals but also the families and communities that surround them.

Trillium Family Services would like to express our strong support for HB 2015 with the - 1 Amendment.

One essential element of this bill is a critical fix for Transition Aged Youth who are accessing mental health residential treatment services.

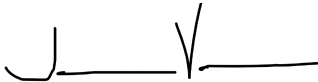
The Transition Aged Youth Residential Treatment Homes across Oregon serve youth ages 17-24 and under the current rules they are required to be licensed as both Child Caring Agencies (youth programs) as well as Adult Residential Treatment Providers (adult programs). As the Children's rules have grown increasingly safety focused while the adult rules have moved to be more independence focused this bill would mandate one set of rules be created for this specific population. Currently providers are attempting to implement two sets of rules that frequently contradict each other.

For example, the adult residential rules indicate they are allowed to be in possession of weapons while the children's rules indicate we must report as child abuse any access to items that could be used to self-harm, which would also be investigated as child abuse.

However, we would be in violation of the adult rules if we did not allow those over 18 access to such items placing our programs in an impossible situation.

Therefore, we feel strongly for the safety and clinical quality of our programs and out of respect for the transition aged youth population they deserve to be regulated under one set of rules crafted specifically for this population of young adults. The bill does not dictate what those rules would be, it simply states we must create only one set of rules for this group to follow. For reference there are currently 7 Transition Aged Youth Residential programs in Oregon run by 5 different providers. These programs are located in Salem, Portland, Grants Pass, Pendelton, Albany, Eugene and Tigard.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Vandergon', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Jamie Vandergon

CEO Trillium Family Services