

*We Are*

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## J BAR J YOUTH SERVICES

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WWW.JBARJ.ORG

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-389-1409  
541-389-9348 Fax

**J BAR J BOYS RANCH / J5**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-312-4022  
541-389-9348 Fax

**J BAR J LEARNING CENTER**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-389-1409  
541-389-9348 Fax

**GRANDMA'S HOUSE**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-383-3515

**CASCADE YOUTH &  
FAMILY CENTER  
RUNAWAY AND  
HOMELESS SERVICES**

2125 NE Daggett Lane  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-382-0934  
HOTLINE 800-660-0934

**CASCADE YOUTH &  
FAMILY CENTER  
LOFT SHELTER**

19 SW Century Drive  
Bend, Oregon 97702  
541-318-3436

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS  
OF CENTRAL OREGON**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-312-6047

**KINDRED CONNECTIONS**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-316-0890

**AT: PROJECT (ANTI-TRAFFICKING)**

62895 Hamby Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
541-647-0658

STEPHANIE ALVSTAD  
CEO/President

Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Sharf and members of the committee,

My name is Eliza Wilson, I am a Program Director at J Bar J Youth Services in Central Oregon. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB3835.

J Bar J Youth Services operates youth shelter programs, residential treatment programs, and community-based programs for youth in Central Oregon and from around the state. The youth we serve have experienced significant childhood trauma, many suffering from co-occurring mental health disorders and substance use disorders. Almost all have been in multiple placements prior to coming to J Bar J Youth Services due to behavioral and mental health needs and the lack of providers in our State. There are almost no appropriate placements for high acuity youth in Oregon. Instead, these youth are being pushed into lower levels of care or out into the community before they are well enough to be there, some of whom we see entering homelessness or worse with the risks of trafficking significantly higher for these young people.

I started my career 16 years ago as a direct care staff in our largest shelter. Prior to that, I spent years in the system as an unaccompanied homeless youth. It's disappointing, years later, to see regulations having decimated our system of care. Providers in Oregon want to support this population, but due to the increased regulation and cost to programs, there are fewer and fewer providers every year. Programs have been burdened with the cost of endless paperwork and reports, all unfunded mandates. We have always operated 'no restraint' programs, however with change in legislation, restraints are undefined and overreaching. Years ago, I restrained a child to prevent them from running into traffic, in this incident and many others, with the current laws, my career could have been at risk. Staff are fearful of providing appropriate intervention in crisis situations.

I firmly believe we can both protect children and support programs and staff with common sense ruling, HB3835 gets us closer to that by defining restraints and abuse. Thank you for your time.

*Eliza Wilson*

