

Support HB 3835 ACT for Youth!

The time is NOW to support Access to Care and Treatment for Youth (ACT). We support HB 3835 as the vehicle to build back and improve our continuum of service within a system of care lens!

SOCAC (System of Care Advisory Council) was formed to bring parents, youth, agencies, payers, programs, and other advocates together to evaluate the impacts of the current regulatory and treatment environment, and make recommendations for change. The lengthy and methodical review of system challenges, including the Safety Workgroup Report, the Secretary of State's audit and the Special Master's Report has led to a deeply considered thoughtful, and incremental adjustment to many aspects of Oregon's statutes. The result is a bill that diminishes inadvertent consequences of prior legislation.

- It clearly defines abuse and neglect, removing administrative technical and other non-injurious errors that are not abuse or neglect from reporting requirements through OTIS (Office of Training, Investigations, and Safety)
- It sets the stage for improving access for youth who are currently frequently denied access to care due to fears of regulatory reprisal against Proctor foster parents, staff at group homes, day treatment programs, residential facilities, and transportation companies.
- It gives ODHS the ability to make rational decisions when, in rare occasions, care that is not available in Oregon can be obtained out of state via a well vetted and monitored programs process.
- It resolves severe challenges faced in safely transporting youth between different levels of care.

Most importantly the resulting regulatory clarifications and interdisciplinary quality proposal sets the stage for programs and people to *focus on the quality of services from a trauma informed lens* rather than a reactive and relationally fraught compliance and punishment framework.

We believe that a full reading and understanding of this bill should reassure consumers and the public despite messaging to the contrary. We deeply appreciate SOCAC leadership and members efforts to address these barriers. Let's take this opportunity to *bring effective care to a supportive environment where youth, families, and caregivers feel optimistic* about shared outcomes and better futures for our most vulnerable youth.

**Join us and support HB 3835
ACT for Youth!**



