

Submitter: Maureen Hinman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2924

Chair Hartman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maureen Hinman and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA). For full disclosure, OSBHA is acting as a contractor for SOCAC, but I'm not testifying as a contractor. I am writing to support this bill as the Executive Director of a community-based organization whose mission begins with the words "to center youth". I believe that including youth and family voice in processes that determine how programs serve them is critical to creating effective systems. Currently, with only two youth and two family members on a committee of 25 people, it is easy for their voices to be lost in the shuffle, despite best intentions. Additionally, when we are asking people with lived experience that includes trauma to participate in meetings that sometimes bring up a lot of emotion, they are going to need to take breaks and if they do so now, there may be no one in the room to represent them. Increasing the number of people with lived experience to a percent that gives their voice a bit more weight, and providing them with a supportive cohort and staff will help to ease the stress and anxiety that can come from being the only one, or as is the case right now, the only two like you in the room.

I urge you to move this bill forward and thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Hinman
Executive Director
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance