

**To the Honorable 83rd Assembly of the Oregon State Legislature,**

I am writing in support of House Bill 2924, which proposes the addition of two family and two youth representatives to address the dynamics and disabilities that require greater attention and action. This initiative is vital to illuminating the unmet needs within our communities.

I have personally experienced the profound impact of having a support system that enables meaningful contributions to the work we all strive to achieve. In 2024, I had the privilege of collaborating with Joyleen Carter to draft three House Bill concepts while attending college. This effort sought to address lived experience needs that were previously overlooked. Without opportunities like this, I would have struggled to maintain hope in systems that I have navigated with difficulty since childhood. These experiences have shaped my understanding of the importance of inclusive and informed policymaking.

My name is Kaleb Gambia, and I am a young, active voting advocate of the SOCAC Youth Council. As Co-Chair of the Oregon Youth Addiction Alliance, I am committed to creating systems of care that are rooted in intent, compassion, and youth-informed policy. This foundation reflects our shared values and the importance of equity and inclusion.

Through extensive study and consensus-building within our Youth Council and the SOCAC structure, we have utilized tools like the GARE metric system to ensure mindfulness of racial impacts and equality within our state. While there have been reservations addressed in previous sessions, the collective decision to support House Bill 3835 reflects the diverse perspectives and lived experiences of our community. As someone who actively participated in the development of HB 3835's core construct and provisions, I can attest to the importance of this work in advancing improved care statutes.

I urge you to consider the significance of these efforts and the voices of those who have contributed to shaping these policies. Thank you for your time, attention, and dedication to creating a more inclusive and equitable future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely, Kaleb Gambia Co-Chair, Oregon Youth Addiction Alliance Active Voting Member,  
SOCAC Youth Council