

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 834

April 15, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am Dr. Jacek (Jack) Haciak, a retired Licensed Psychologist and mental health program administrator now operating a consultation service, DynamicChanges LLC. I am writing in support of SB 834.

For eight years I provided psychological services at Oregon State Hospital (OSH) in the Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) program to youth ages 16 and 17. I also had specialized training and a history of providing mental health services to children, youth, and family starting in 1976.

While working at Oregon State Hospital, I witnessed the limiting effects of providing services to youth in an institutional setting geared for adults with more complex clinical needs. I worked in my personal time with members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN) to end the CATS program and move it into a more community-based and age-appropriate setting, the Children's Farm Home. We were successful.

All mental health services need to meet the best standards of care for those served, and age appropriateness is a key factor needing attention when serving those under 18 years of age. Doing otherwise poses unnecessary obstacles and can inadvertently bring about iatrogenic effects from the setting.

Please pass SB 834 and ensure that individuals under the age of 18 are provided the standard of care they deserve.

Thank you.

Jacek Haciak, Psy.D., Director

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