

SB 736 A

Testimony May 1, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Jacek (Jack) Haciaak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC. I am a retired Psychologist and former administrator of mental health programs in Oregon and three additional states.

I support Senate Bill 736 A.

I learned a truism many years ago from excellent administrator mentors that has also been well documented now by decades of research: the bedrock foundation of service effectiveness and system success is laid by fostering trust and relationship with those served. No matter the service provided, it is “how” the service is provided which carries the day, and not just from ensuring all procedural steps were diligently completed. Firm adherence to standardized procedures is essential. But doing so fairly and justly creates the trust needed if investigators’ findings and recommendations in child abuse cases are to be accepted by all parties as often as possible.

SB 736 A makes changes to the procedures for investigating child abuse which provide clear rights information to parents and guardians about to be investigated, and by doing so creates a more transparent child protection process. The immediate payoff of reducing stress in an inherently tense investigational process becomes even larger when the public and our system officials perceive a good faith effort at safeguarding justice.

Please pass SB 736 A and create the circumstances for improved and effective system investigations of child abuse.

Thank you.

Jacek (Jack) Haciaak, PsyD, Director

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