

Submitter: Sammi Weethee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835
Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sammi Weethee, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3835A. This bill threatens to dismantle critical protections for Oregon's most vulnerable children—those who have already experienced abuse and neglect.

As someone who works closely with vulnerable communities, I know how essential it is to have strong safeguards in place to protect children from further harm. HB 3835A would move us backward, not forward. Instead of prioritizing the safety and well-being of children, it opens the door to increased risk, trauma, and long-term harm, especially for those who are Deaf, DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing. Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing children already experience abuse, neglect and violence at much higher rates than their hearing counterparts.

We have a moral obligation to protect children, especially those who cannot speak for themselves. I urge you to reject HB 3835A and stand up for the rights and safety of Oregon's most vulnerable youth.

Sincerely,
Sammi Weethee
Bridges Oregon