



May 9, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazen and Vice-Chair Pham:

I'm writing to voice my support for HB3835A. HB3835A is the product of years of effort from the System of Care Advisory Council and a legion of system partners. These partners include: Advocacy groups, youth and family with lived experience, behavioral health providers, other nonprofit leaders, legislators, and state agencies have all actively contributed to the development and refinement of HB3835A.

In 2023, Mental Health America ranked Oregon dead last among other states in terms of its access to mental health services for youth. Currently, Oregonians are unable to access the care they need due to program closures, youth are forced to travel over five hours to access needed care, and waitlists are frequently months long. HB3835A is a first step forward in increasing youth access to critical care. Passage of HB3835A will:

- Clarify standards related to child abuse, restraint and seclusion.
 - HB 3835A changes how restraints are investigated.
 - It does not change prohibited restraints or decrease safety provisions for children in care.
- Increase children's fair access to treatment.
- Improve oversight processes to protect children in care.

Oregon's children deserve a system that cares for them. Voting YES on HB3835A supports building a system that safely serves children well and provides access to the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Respectfully,

Adam Rodakowski, MSW
Director of Foster Care
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