

Submitter: Sonja Stevenson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835
Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sonja Stevenson, and I'm the parent of a child with disabilities. I strongly oppose HB 3835 because it reduces protections for vulnerable children—especially those like mine who rely on state systems for safety and support.

This bill makes it easier to send children to out-of-state or institutional placements without strong oversight. We've seen the harm this causes—kids isolated from family, placed in unsafe settings due to lack of in-state services. HB 3835 also weakens safeguards around restraint and seclusion, practices that disproportionately harm children with disabilities.

Families like mine are not obstacles to care—we are partners. But this bill shifts power away from families and courts, giving DHS more unchecked authority. Oregon should invest in community-based supports, not make it easier to remove kids from their homes.

Please vote no on HB 3835.

Sincerely,

Sonja Stevenson
Portland, Oregon