

Submitter: Jennifer Murphy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

Dear Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Murphy, and I'm the parent of two children with complex disabilities. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3835. This bill poses a significant danger to families like mine—and to the children you are sworn to protect.

When parents face a lack of school supports, in-home services, crisis response, and appropriate behavioral care, they often feel trapped. All too frequently, families are coerced into giving up custody of children simply to ensure their safety. HB 3835 would exacerbate this issue, making it easier for the state to remove children from their families while undermining court oversight and silencing parents.

This legislation expands the authority of DHS to institutionalize and isolate children—often outside their home state—when the system fails to invest in the care that children need: to remain at home with their families. Additionally, it undermines existing laws that protect children from harmful practices like restraint and seclusion, opening the door to further trauma under the pretense of treatment.

Children with disabilities are not burdens; they are human beings deserving of love, dignity, and safety. HB 3835 fundamentally fails them at every level. This can't pass!

I urge you to vote against this bill. Let's work together to create pathways that support families and empower our children, rather than making it easier to take them away.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Murphy
Winston, Oregon