

Submitter:

Vanessa Brookhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3835

When I was working at Parrott Creek Child and Family Services as the residential therapist with DHS residential facility New Era in 2019 - 2020, we were focused on bringing children back from Idaho to Oregon. These kids experienced an array of abuses including physical abuse and restraints by adults and sexual abuse by other children due to lack of appropriate supervision. We cannot allow this to happen to our most vulnerable population again. We need to properly pay the residential counselors and line staff workers in Oregon so that they will want to work with these kids. The answer is not to lower the standards of care, it is to pay people a fair wage to work in these difficult conditions. We also need to train and support these line staff workers in de-escalation procedures to avoid having to put hands on kids. This work is difficult but it is also possible.