



Oregon Alliance

2/3/2026

RE: Support HB 4042

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chairs Edwards, Javadi, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health, Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs, an association representing organizations that provide care, treatment, and support to children, youth, and families across the state, supports HB 4042.

Our member organizations operate within complex systems, often in high-risk and high-acuity environments. HB 4042 recognizes that protecting children is not solely the responsibility of individual providers, but of the broader system that licenses, monitors, and intervenes when standards are not met. This bill moves Oregon toward a more coherent and accountable oversight structure grounded in clear expectations and decisive action when children are placed at risk.

At its core, HB 4042 is about systems change. It reinforces that safety, transparency, and ethical operations are not optional features of child-serving systems but are foundational. By establishing uniform compliance standards and strengthening the state's authority to intervene in cases of serious harm, failure to report abuse, lack of cooperation with investigations, or financial misconduct, the bill aligns regulatory tools with the realities faced by children in care and the agencies that serve them.

For providers, a strong and consistent regulatory framework is not a burden, it's essential. It creates clarity about expectations, protects responsible operators, and helps prevent the erosion of public trust caused by systemic gaps or delayed responses.

Families rely on the child-serving system at moments of crisis and vulnerability. They deserve assurance that the state has the authority and obligation to act swiftly when safety is compromised. HB 4042 strengthens that assurance, ensuring that serious violations are met with timely and proportionate action and that children's welfare remains the central focus.

The Alliance supports HB 4042 but only as a small step. We look forward for the legislature to continue to work for a more proactive, transparent, and child-centered system of care.

This bill does not introduce new values, it clarifies the values that should already define our system, that children must be safe, agencies must be accountable, and oversight must be effective. We urge your support for HB 4042 that advances these shared goals.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to Oregon's children and families.

Sincerely,

Vera Stouli
CEO
Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs
**Empowering Organizations,
Transforming Lives**