

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4042
NO on HB 4042

This bill creates a legal pathway for the state to house children alongside violent adults, intentionally ignoring the physical and psychological devastation that results from such placements. It allows these placements even when the setting is not a licensed child-caring agency or a qualified treatment program. Our children face too many obstacles in our present society without the very real possibility of sexual and other abuse. WE are supposed to protect them not further put them in harm's way.

HB 4042 changes how child-caring agencies (CCAs) are regulated in a way that protects the system rather than the child. Rather than closing facilities that fail to protect residents, this bill allows the Director to rescind intent to revoke a license if they decide concerns have been "ameliorated".

The bill lists requirements like "behavior management" and "safety," it also allows DHS to merely "place conditions" on a license instead of taking the decisive action required to prevent further abuse.

House Bill 4042 appears to be yet another proverbial hammer in search of a nonexistent 'nail.' Excessive legislation like this potential mandate diminishes the people's liberty, so please OPPOSE this bill, and leave our self-management to the people's freedom - this should not be a foreign concept in America, leaving taxpayers to manage their own affairs as nobody is being threatened with harm. Stay within the Oregon constitution's sandbox by focusing on budgetary issues only during this short session.

VOTE NO.