



## ***Support HB4059***

### **The Current CW Regulatory System Is In Critical Need of Reform**

The current state regulatory/enforcement system **often causes harm to the very children and families it should be protecting**

Capacity for treating high-acuity youth has cratered in the past decade

Oregon has gone from 51 non-profits in 2014 to just 7 non-profits in 2025 for youth with high level challenges

This leaves many children with **no place to go**

ERs, temporary lodging, homelessness or death has been the result

The hardest hit have been the programs for black youth, LGBTQ+, and Latino/a populations

That is not caring, it is not compassionate, and it is not safe for kids

**Clearly, the system is often harmful rather than helpful**

### **We need a change**

HB4059 brings Oregon into line with 32 other states

Using the “*preponderance of evidence*” is widely accepted around the nation, and is a more balanced and fair way to deal with caring, committed young staffers trying to make a difference in the lives of children and young people

For a decade, state regulations have overburdened caring non-profit organizations and wrongly labeled them with child abuse or neglect claims and investigations

These regulations drive caring staff away from the work, leaving agencies unable to staff facilities

Kids with high acuity challenges need support and services, and HB4059 will begin the process of rebuilding our system for doing just that. It is a small but important change that will help kids.

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