

Submitter: Karen James
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4106
TO: House Committee On Judiciary
FROM: Karen James
DATE: February 11, 2026
SUBJECT: Oppose HB 4106 (2026)

As a mother and guardian of an adult son who suffers with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), I am writing in opposition to HB 4106.

As a parent, police are my greatest fear for my loved one as tragedies continually occur when people in a mental health crisis are encountered by the police.

I, along with many parents, am very reluctant to call, not only the police but also the county mobile crisis units, to seek help for our loved ones experiencing a mental health emergency. Police officer training does not prepare or qualify officers to respond to these specialized situations that require recognition of a mental health crisis, de-escalation techniques, trauma-informed care, safety of all involved, etc.

These special skills and trainings would be especially critical during the transportation of a person ordered by a judge, due to their severe mental illness, to be civilly committed to a hospital for treatment. To grant an officer impunity in the use of restraints or physical force while transporting a vulnerable person in crisis is unconscionable.

While I am concerned for the safety of all involved, I feel the need for crises services can be alleviated by fully funding adequate, stable community mental health housing, programs and services. I also agree with Disability Rights Oregon's suggested reforms that reduce harm during transport:

- Expanded use of non-law-enforcement transport options for people in behavioral health crisis when appropriate.
- Stronger requirements for de-escalation and disability-informed practices.
- Clear limits and reporting on restraint use, with review when injury occurs. If the committee is determined to move forward with changes in this area, HB 4106 would at minimum need substantial amendments—such as explicitly excluding immunity for gross negligence or willful misconduct and adding robust documentation and oversight.