

Submitter: Penny FitzMaurice

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4106

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Penny FitzMaurice and I live in Washington county. My 13 year old son has disabilities and is non-speaking. HB 4106 has the potential to bring great harm to my son and others in the disability community.

HB 4106 will lead to punishing people in crisis with no oversight.

These are often people with disabilities, trauma histories, or mental health conditions, and restraints or force can easily make things worse instead of safer.

The bill relies on vague standards like an officer's "reasonable belief" and "good faith." In real life, those terms can be used after the fact to justify almost any use of force, especially when the person being transported is unable to clearly explain what happened. That's exactly why outside accountability matters.

This bill is also unnecessary. Officers already have legal protections under current law. Expanding immunity even further, without adding stronger safety rules or oversight, increases the risk of harm and reduces incentives to use de-escalation and least-restrictive options.

Instead of expanding immunity, Oregon should focus on safer alternatives, like non-law-enforcement transport when appropriate, stronger de-escalation requirements, and clear limits and reporting on restraint use.

As written, HB 4106 moves Oregon in the wrong direction. For these reasons, we urge you not to pass this bill.

Thank you,

Penny FitzMaurice