



May 4, 2017

TO: Senator Jeff Barker, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director  
RE: Support for SB 846A

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's nonprofit *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO has worked for years to minimize the use of physical restraints on individuals with disabilities, whether they are in psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, schools, jails and prisons.

As most, if not all, health and human services programs have moved toward a model of trauma-informed care, we have come to understand that effective interventions must not only recognize the effects of past trauma but also take care not to create new trauma. We also recognize that a large percentage of youth in the justice system have a behavioral health diagnosis.

Unnecessary shackling of youth in court proceedings risks psychological and physical harm to the individual, has a negative impact on their court case, and is counterproductive to reformation. When courts have clear procedures and clear authority to order restraints, when appropriate, our juvenile justice system is best served.

We thank Representative Post and Senators Gelser, Frederick, Manning and Thatcher for sponsoring SB 846A. We also thank this committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 846A.