

Senate Committee on Human Services & Mental Health  
Madam Chair Senator Sara Gelser  
Vice Chair Senator Dick Anderson  
Member: Senator Kate Lieber  
Senator Art Robinson  
Senator Kathleen Taylor

Dear Madam Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Human Services & Mental Health Committee,

I am a long time Oregon resident and Dentist and really happy to see legislation like this introduced. Thank you Chair Gelser for scheduling HB2333 for a hearing.

Per numerous reports, studies and investigations over the last 20 years, it's been identified that our foster children are prescribed psychiatric medication 4 times that of their peers not in foster care.

It's been a well-known scientific consensus that giving children suffering from trauma, psychiatric and psychotropic drugs, could actually cause more harm than good. Instead, valid therapies, wrap around services and support is what has shown success.

Oregon has a rate of roughly 1 in 5 children currently on psychiatric medications, per a report in 2018 from the OIG here and 4.6 million being spent annually: <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-15-00380.pdf>

I think it's well past time that we put in a proper tracking and reporting system so we can ensure our most vulnerable children are being properly diagnosed, not over-drugged and make sure we are utilizing all available therapies for these children.

I encourage our State legislature and the members of this Committee to pass HB2333 and let's ensure our children have the best possible outcomes. I urge a DO-PASS recommendation!

Sincerely,

Dr. David Carothers, DDS