

Administrative Office

March 22, 2023

Looking Glass Programs

Counseling Services

Counseling Program Crisis Response Program

Runaway & Homeless Services

Station 7 Program New Roads Program Rural Program

Education & Vocational Services

Riverfront School & Career Center Center Point School New Roads School

Residential Services

Regional Crisis Center Pathways Boys Program Pathways Girls Program Stepping Stone Program Parole Revocation Diversion Program To: Chair Reynolds and Members of the Early Childhood and Human Services Committee

From: Craig Opperman, President/CEO, Looking Glass Community Services

RE: Support for HB 3333

Please accept this letter of support for HB 3333.

We are experiencing a workforce crisis. This bill does not change any existing laws or ability to remove unfit or dangerous individuals from our workforce. It does allow a staff who has made a harmless mistake to be referred by an investigating body to a corrective action plan. This would replace the current system where they are labeled an alleged perpetrator of child abuse until they are found, days or weeks later, to be innocent.

Providers are extremely concerned about child safety. Most take actions beyond what is required by regulations to continuously improve a safe and therapeutic environment. However, our community needs a strong, well-resourced workforce to ensure our children are treated well. When staff are unnecessarily labeled as alleged perpetrators of abuse, it makes a very difficult job more difficult. It negatively affects morale and ability to maintain a workforce.

Please support HB 3333.

Thank you for your attention to this, and all your work.

CUA

A United Way Agency

Craig Opperman, MSE President/CEO

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Looking Glass Community Services

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