

Submitter: Seema Steffany

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

HB 3835 is quite clearly a business decision that undermines the core of what the Child Welfare Division should stand for. To support and protect vulnerable children in foster care!

How did sending children to out of state facilities become the solution at hand?

Redefining what constitutes as abuse and the poor oversight in almost all areas of this bill is appalling. Again, this is a business decision that can ease operational responsibilities but has anyone proposing this bill considered what happens to

children when they are removed from their homes and then casually shipped to another state. To facilities that clearly will not adhere to the same child safety

standards as established in Oregon. By proposing this bill, sponsors are essentially saying they don't care! Remember, even if a single child is abused - IT MATTERS!!

HB3835 if passed will open up a flood gate that took countless advocates years to prevent. Oregon's Child Welfare can seriously do better than coming up with a bill

that paves the way for lawsuits ahead. Above all, the cost endured by a child will be lifelong so please so revisit this bill to nurture and support our children in foster care

and not to break them down.

Thank you

The lack of resource homes and treatment facilities to support children in foster care is not something that suddenly happened overnight. This has been a chronic and lingering concern for the agency.