

Submitter: K James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

Testimony in Opposition of HB 3835

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition of HB 3835. I served four years as a CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocate for 2 foster children. At the time I was assigned this case, there were 38 complaints filed with DHS concerning abuse and neglect of these children. I witnessed the challenges created by failing to intervene with appropriate support and care for vulnerable children in need. We must protect children instead of reducing public, independent scrutiny of child caring agencies and schools who seclude, restrain, or send children out-of-state.

Oregon is 51st in the nation in children mental health treatment. Oregon must expand community capacity including mobile crisis services, children, youth and peer services, etc. Oregon must train teachers and care providers about safe, appropriate methods to prevent behavioral health emergencies to safely respond to youth in crisis.