

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, members of the House Committee on Rules, my name is Harry Gilmore. I'm a manager in the Children's Care Licensing Program at the Oregon Department of Human Services, and it's in this capacity that I'd like to express my support for House Bill 3835 and the dash 5 amendments to the measure.

For the last 11 years it's been my privilege to supervise a team of dedicated public servants who provide direct regulatory oversight of the child caring agencies licensed by the Department. When I began my current job, I found that our work as regulators was hampered by the lack of authority and enforcement options available to the Department under the laws that underpinned our work. Since then, there have been significant improvements to the state's statutes that govern the licensing and oversight of child-caring agencies, including but not limited to the following:

SB1515 in 2016
HB2903 in 2017
SB181 in 2019
SB710 in 2021
SB1547 in 2022
SB93 in 2023

Passage of these and other measures has significantly expanded the scope of the Department's oversight of child-serving entities, greatly improved the effectiveness of the Department's regulatory oversight and enabled the Department to better ensure the safety and well-being of the children served by residential treatment centers, shelters, private foster care agencies, boarding schools and other child-caring facilities and programs located throughout the state. That said, there are aspects of the current laws governing child-caring agencies that have resulted in some unintended consequences and brought some unforeseen challenges that House Bill 3835 will effectively address.

I greatly appreciate the thoughtful and careful approach taken by the System of Care Advisory Council in drafting this legislation, and the prospective positive impacts of the measure are explained very well in the Committee's eight-page policy brief, which has been provided to members of the Rules Committee. After studying the

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bill, I believe its passage will preserve the components of the law that keep children safe and ensure their well-being while also enhancing the ability of our valued licensed agencies to do the critically important work that they do. It's also my feeling that passage of the bill will ultimately help to address the steady decline in the number of licensed child-caring facilities and programs in Oregon and increase the options available for meeting the care and critical treatment needs of children, adolescents and young adults in communities across the state. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for this important measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Gilmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H" and last name "Gilmore" clearly distinguishable.

Harry Gilmore, Regulatory Manager 2
Children's Care Licensing Program
Office of Training, Investigations and Safety
Oregon Dept. of Human Services