

HB 3835  
Testimony May 12, 2025  
House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Jacek (Jack) Haciaak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC. For this testimony, I am particularly drawing on my work as the Psychologist on Unit 40B in the former Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) program at Oregon State Hospital (OSH) where in a specialized project we brought seclusions and restraints down to virtually zero prior to CATS' closure as has been done elsewhere.

I oppose HB 3835-A5.

In my March 20 testimony opposed to HB 3835 I provided clear examples of the deficits in this bill and how it will make the risk of system-induced trauma for our youth even worse. Amendment A5 does not change any of the deficits I cited.

Had DHS provided the training and oversight necessary under the current statute's requirements for a culture transformation needed so administrators and direct care staff could effectively address dangerous situations and behaviors while staying within ethical and legal limitations, we would not be seeing the alleged mass exodus and avoidance by providers fearing false allegations of child abuse. In programs successfully and ethically managing risks of youth danger, such fears are not present, and I personally have witnessed and implemented such culture change processes in an inpatient environment where youth were in the most acute state of distress and risk of danger.

The current DHS administration needs help with learning how to create, implement, and manage a trauma-informed culture of safe service provision for youth in need. Examples exist for such implementation, and consultants could be acquired and empowered to train, model, and oversee the implementation and continued enactment of a healthy and safe service environment for youth at the highest risk of danger.

Please do not pass HB 3835.

Thank you.

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