

Submitter: Amy Fellows
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4042
Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the Committee-

I am writing to express opposition to HB4042 for multiple reasons.

I am concerned about the congregate care portion because the state should not be pursuing congregate care, and the legislature shouldn't facilitate it – other than as a last resort if it is the only place a child can get the treatment they need.

I'm also concerned about the licensing changes. It is not ok is to loosen requirements that providers lose their license when a child dies in care or there is harm that the care agency knew about. We need to have more accountability for providers serving Oregon's most vulnerable children, not less.

Regarding restraint, the state should not be making it easier for kids to be restrained while in care. We should not be changing the statute to permit agencies to train staff on methods of restraint that we know are cruel and inappropriate. We should be working on upstream trainings and approaches that reduce the escalations that lead to restraint. These include teaching the adults about their own nervous systems and their role as co-regulators for distressed children. Making sure settings are educated about and set up in a sensory safe way to reduce overstimulation. And Collaborative Problem Solving which Oregon Health Authority has already invested in and is offered for free at locations throughout the state such as Riverview Center for Growth.

Thank you for your consideration in removing these harmful sections of HB4042 or voting No on it.

Sincerely,

Amy Fellows, MPH
Eugene