



RE: HB 4042 — Oppose
Senate Human Services Committee

Hearing: February 24, 2026

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

ICARS is a parent, survivor, and disability-led organisation working internationally to reduce harm associated with restraint, seclusion, and unsafe congregate care practices affecting children in state systems.

HB 4042 raises critical safeguarding concerns, as several provisions of the bill introduce greater variability into placement oversight and restraint-related training structures at a time when consistency and accountability are essential protections for children in care.

The dangers associated with the use of restraint and seclusion on children and young people are not theoretical. Decades of federal and state investigations have demonstrated that children experience physical injury, psychological trauma, and lasting fear following these interventions. Child deaths have occurred nationally and internationally following restraint practices, underscoring that these interventions carry inherent risk when safeguards fail or standards vary. Statewide consistency in training and oversight therefore functions as a core safeguarding mechanism, not an administrative preference.

The bill introduces increased risk to children by weakening statutory safeguards intended to ensure consistent training and oversight. Variability across providers makes monitoring more difficult, complicates accountability, and increases the likelihood that safety standards will be applied unevenly across programs.

Oregon has previously led the country by taking deliberate steps to strengthen protections and reduce life-threatening and harmful practices within child-serving systems. Legislative changes such as those proposed in HB 4042 introduce fragmentation into the state's training approval and oversight frameworks and therefore risk undermining that leadership and progress by creating uncertainty regarding the standards governing restraint and physical interventions.

The bill expands reliance on case-by-case administrative determinations for child placement decisions rather than maintaining clear, uniform safeguards. Licensing and structured placement standards exist to ensure enforceable protections, transparency when harm occurs, and consistent expectations across providers. Increasing discretion, as this bill does, without equivalent statutory guardrails will weaken essential oversight for children placed in congregate settings. Regulatory systems protect children only when enforcement structures remain clear, predictable, and consistently applied. When oversight becomes discretionary or fragmented, risks increase for children who are already among the most vulnerable in state care.

Members of this Committee have previously engaged directly with youth and survivors regarding harms experienced within congregate care and institutional settings, including testimony provided during prior legislative discussions on this issue. In this context, the lived experience of youth, survivors, families, and advocates is not ancillary but essential to achieving safe, humane, and effective policy outcomes.

For these reasons, ICARS respectfully requests the Committee to vote NO on HB 4042.

ICARS appreciates the Committee's continued work to safeguard children in Oregon's care systems and thanks you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoey Read", is written over a white rectangular area. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Zoey Read
International Coalition Against Restraint and Seclusion (ICARS)