

Dear Senator Gelser-Blouin,

I'm reaching out because my team and I were made aware of HB4042, which is being heard in the Senate Human Services Committee today. I have *serious* concerns about what this bill would mean for children in congregate care in Oregon.

In 2020, I publicly shared my own story of abuse and neglect in residential care. Afterward, hundreds of thousands of people who experienced abuse and neglect in these programs reached out to me. Different states. Different facilities. But the stories were all the same. It was abundantly clear to me: when standards are weakened and oversight is minimal, children are put in danger. Some do not survive. Many others carry the impact for the rest of their lives.

The reason I care about this is personal. As a teenager, I was removed from my home and sent to facilities where I had no way to protect myself or safely report harm. I was cut off from the people who loved me and subjected to degrading treatment that no child should ever endure. That experience is why I have dedicated my platform to advocating for stronger safeguards and real accountability in youth care. It is also why I am speaking up now. From what I have seen across the country, bills that loosen licensing, placement standards, and enforcement do not create flexibility. They create loopholes. And children and their families ultimately pay the price.

HB 4042 is a *grave* mistake; it moves Oregon backward on the most basic protections kids in state care need. This will have devastating consequences; we've already seen the outcomes in Oregon and states across the country.

Please listen to youth, survivors, and families.

Oregon has a choice here: lead with safety and basic rights for kids in care, or move in a direction that history has shown leads to more harm.

You can change outcomes for these innocent children.

Please vote NO on HB 4042.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paris". The letter "P" is large and loops around, with the name "Paris" written in a cursive script to its right.

Paris Hilton

Founder, 11:11 Media Impact