

Hampton Susan

Subject: FW: HB 2756 concerns

From: Sean Reinhart [<mailto:sean.reinhart@bend.k12.or.us>]

Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 12:30 PM

To: Rep Whisnant

Subject: HB 2756 concerns

Representative Whisnant,

My name is Sean Reinhart and I am the Assistant Director of Special Programs in the Bend - La Pine Schools. Next year, I will be the Director of Special Programs for Bend - La Pine. I am writing to voice concern over HB 2756.

HB 2756 is of grave concern to educators who work with our most behaviorally disturbed children. The bill is troubling because it permits the use of seclusion, but not in specially designed safe locations. This bill would actually increase risk of harm to students and staff.

Schools have a mandate to serve all students with disabilities, regardless of severity of behavior. As Oregon has de-funded children's mental health services, schools have become the default service provider for children with mental health or developmental disabilities and significant violent behavior. Seclusion rooms are not prohibited in children's mental health facilities. If we strip schools from this option for managing student behavior at school, we are putting schools in an impossible position - having a mandate to provide education to the most severely disabled students with violent behavior without a safe option for managing their behavior at school.

I would like to extend an invitation for a tour of our programs that serve our students with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances. You will get to meet the staff and students, and gather further information on our limited use of restrain and seclusion in our time-out rooms. Thanks for your attention to this important issue.

Please contact me anytime at:

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