



## Oregon School Employees Association

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March 6, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol - 900 Court St NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 363

Hello Chair Gelser and members of the committee, my name is Kathy Forbes and I have been an Special Education Assistant in the Tillamook School District for 20 years. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 363.

I have worked with a range of students with different diagnosis and behaviors, such as, students who are emotionally disturbed, students with ADHD, and Autism. During my years, I have been hit, kicked, bit, slapped, spit on...my hair pulled...and, have endured back/neck/shoulder trauma, as well. I have even witnessed my co-worker being choked.

I didn't know when I took this job that it would include all of this. The training given, is only for a select few...not the whole team. I feel Educational Assistants should have the opportunity to know about the student's behavior and be trained.

I need you to see me...I want you to know, I have been blessed by many of the students I have served over the years. I should feel like my District should care enough about me, to give me and the teams I work with the training necessary. And they should be able to provide the necessary program(s) to the students for them to have the best education possible...it just might look a little different.

Thank you,

Kathy Forbes,

Special Education Assistant  
South Prairie Elementary School