

Dear Lawmakers:

I am writing in support of HB 3318-1.

I have been employed by the school district for 16 years. These are situations I have been experiencing in the last four years:

Physical Danger:

~ Kicking ~ Biting ~ Scratching ~ Targeting injury to weak areas ~ being vomited on ~ having to deal with feces ~ having to clean genital areas ~ spitting ~ student not able to mainstream due to posing danger to public

Medical Care:

~ Changing adult diapers ~ body fluids ~ monitoring oxygen levels and heart rate ~ operating cough assist ~ operate suction machine ~ hand feeding ~ I have been trained, coached and required to know basic CPR and Heimlich maneuver. All of the above is hands-on with a maximum of 10 minutes training by professionals.

All of this is causing constant physical, mental, emotional, and psychological stress to my everyday life. As a Para-professional I take pride in working with children who may never reach a grade/developmental stage in their life to be on their own. I am trusted by their parents, my co-workers, and other students around me to care and provide the safest environment possible. It takes a lot of energy from me when I myself feel that I am constantly trying to “protect”, instead of educate, those around me. I have precious, beautiful lives to teach and I do it with pride. However, there needs to be policy, like HB 3318 -1 to protect everyone’s rights, at all times.

Thank you,

Gail Ebell,
Eastern Oregon Para-Professional