

Testimony of  
Olivia Godoy-Amello  
child  
Portland, Oregon

Before the house committee on rules  
2021 regular session  
on  
SB 236

Support  
June 8th, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Dragan and Holweg, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity you are giving me to testify today.

My name is Olivia Godoy-Amello, I am 9 years old and I decided to testify today in support of Bill 236 because I think it is very important you hear the opinion of children when you are deciding what to do with this problem.

I would like to tell you my story:

When I was very little, I started to go to school with my sister. My sister Amelia was very quiet and shy, and didn't speak very much. In our class, there was a boy named Arthur who would get very frustrated when Amelia didn't respond to him or his questions.

One day, I saw him hitting her and I didn't like it, but I couldn't speak very well yet, so I hit him instead because it was the only thing I could do.

The teacher told my mom what I had done. At home, my mom spoke with both of us. We talked about Amelia speaking up for herself and about me not hitting other children. She also explained that something must be happening with Arthur to make him behave that way.

We learned sometime after that Arthur had a cousin at home who would hit him. He was not a bad child and my teacher didn't expell or suspend him, they helped him instead, and after some time he stopped hitting other children.

Arthur, my sister, and I were very lucky because my mom and my teacher had studied a lot and knew what to do to help children. But All children should be lucky, and rather than giving up on them and expelling them, teachers should be able to help them. Unfortunately, for teachers to be able to help them, they need money for training and support from people like my mama and my teacher.

I hope you pass this bill and protect children because we are all good and don't mean to do bad things. We are just learning.

♡ Thank You

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My name is Olivia Godoy-Avello, I am 9 years old and I decided to testify today in support of bill 236 because I think it is very important that you hear the opinion of children when you are deciding what to do with this problem.

I would like to tell you my story:

When I was very little, I started to go to school with my sister. My sister Amelia was very quiet and shy, and didn't speak very much. In our class there was a boy named Arthur who would get very frustrated when Amelia didn't respond to him or his questions.

One day, I saw him hitting her and I didn't like it, but I couldn't speak very well yet, so I bit him instead because it was the only thing I could do.

The teacher told my mom what I had done. At home, my mom spoke with both of us. We talked about Amelia speaking up for herself and about me, not biting other children. She also explained that something must be happening with Arthur to make him behave that way.

We learned sometime after that Arthur had a cousin at home who would hit him. He was not a bad child and my teacher didn't expel him, they helped him instead, and after some time he stopped hitting other children.

Arthur, my sister and I were very lucky because my mom and my teacher had studied and knew what to do to help children. But, all children should be lucky, and rather than giving up on them and expelling them, teachers should be able to help them. Unfortunately, for the teachers to be able to help them, they need money for trainings and support from people like my mama and my teacher.

I hope you pass this bill and protect the children because we are all good and don't mean to do bad things. We are just learning.

Thank you