

Submitter: Kasey Papineau

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

Dear Chair and Valued Committee Members. I come to you today as a self-advocate, having spent time in foster care as a child, having been a child restrained and secluded in schools. I come to you as a parent of a child receiving Children's Intensive In-Home Services for behavior needs, the highest level of care outside of a hospital for developmental disabilities, and as a foster parent. I am also a caregiver with over a decade of experience, specializing in intensive behavior supports.

Restraint and seclusion have no place in our schools or our care facilities. For some children this has been deadly. Our kids already face so many fears in school - bullying, disability exclusion, shootings, and more. Restraint and seclusion turns their last safe space - teachers and staff - into another threat, another reason to stay home. My youngest child is unable to attend public school due to the policies for Restraint already - they would kill him. There are other, well-proven methods to keep all students and staff safe in behavioral crises, and lowering protections will never be a pathway to more safety.

The change to reduce investigations of sexual abuse in this bill is uncalled for and again, stands in direct opposition of policies and laws that would actually protect our children.

Lastly, the idea of sending foster children out of state goes against everything we know about reunification, and repairing families. There are proven, effective ways to manage these crises in Oregon - for example, the only reason I do not currently foster is the cost of housing prevents me from providing for more children. Sending our kids to another state will only entrench them in an already overburdened system.

Please, keep our children safe. We can't do it without you.