

Submitter: Julie Chick
On Behalf Of: Sammy's Place
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

As a parent of two adult children, one of which who has an intellectual disability and is in the public school transition program, I cannot oppose this proposal enough.

Provider capacity is never a solution and Better Solutions Can Be Identified: There are solutions that still support provider capacity and retention and child safety, but that do not undermine abuse prevention and reporting or endanger kids.

- o Funding: Reduced provider capacity and recruitment and retention challenges are due to inadequate funding and understaffing due to poor rate models—not “liability-driven abuse reporting.”

? Funding for more staff may also lessen the potential for abuse due to things such as short staffing or burnout.

- o Training: If liability-driven reporting is an issue, changing laws to make abuse easier is not the answer. Instead, educate staff and operators about what the rules are and when to report appropriately.

- o Senate Bill 1113: Sets forth clearer more objective standards for what restraint and seclusion counts as child abuse, and safely addresses out-of-state placement under the Indian Child Welfare Act, or for those in need of medical services, substance abuse treatment, or in-patient psychiatric treatment that cannot be provided within the state.

“Rolling Back” Protections is Dangerous and sends messages this family is not interested in: Rolling back existing abuse prevention laws will not change the fact that abuse will still occur, leaving children more at risk when it does.

- o Children with DD frequently do not have the ability to communicate incidents of abuse or may be subjected to coercion.

- o If the law goes the wrong way and enables more abuse, they will not be able to tell us so.

Finally, Inequitable Impacts to People of Color and Children with IDD Will Result: Creating an increased likelihood for abuse would negatively impact communities of color and those with developmental disabilities the most.

- o Those populations are disproportionately subjected to restraint and seclusion due to racial and ableist bias.

- o SOCAC did not examine the concept through any sort of racial equity lens.

We strongly oppose this bill, thank you for your time,

Julie Chick, Parent, Nehalem, OR
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