

Submitter: Chloe Cooper  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

I am writing you to oppose HB3835.

I have worked in disability services since 2017 in a variety of settings. I previously worked as a para educator at Portland Public schools in their intensive skills classrooms working with teens with disabilities.

In the two years I worked as a para educator, I worked with many students with a variety of behavioral supports. Building rapport with students takes time and is extremely important for their safety. If a student was having a hard time and dysregulated, we had protocols to work with the student to support them with what they were needing to continue their school day.

This bill changes the definition of what counts as restraint or seclusion based on the 'intent' of the perpetrator, versus the actions and if the child is harmed. So putting a child in an unnecessary and dangerous restraint when not needed causing injury to the student wouldn't be considered abuse if done by a 'responsible' adult. Or isolating a student for long periods of time wouldn't be considered abuse if the acts were done by a 'responsible' adult. This bill has many other dangerous proposals including limiting sexual abuse investigations, putting children more at risk for abuse and neglect.

I urge you to oppose HB3835.