

March 20, 2025

## Testimony in Support of HB 3835

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Harnisch, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub. I am writing today in support of HB 3835.

A key component of this legislation seeks to refine policies related to restraint and seclusion. While current regulations are well-intentioned, they have inadvertently placed strain on the workforce across schools, early education settings, and behavioral health service systems. These policies have also created confusion among families and providers, leading to inconsistencies in practice and uncertainty about how best to support children in need.

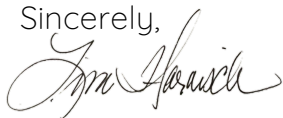
Moreover, existing framework can contribute to fear-based decision-making, ultimately hindering families from accessing critical services and supports in a timely manner. The proposed changes in HB 3835 will help modernize these policies, ensuring they are both practical and effective. By integrating preventative and trauma-informed approaches, we can achieve better outcomes for children while also supporting the educators and professionals who care for them.

Clarity and consistency in policy are essential. HB 3835 will establish clear, fair, and uniform standards that protect all Oregon children, regardless of their educational or care setting. These improvements will have a significant and positive impact on both the workforce and the families who rely on these services.

I urge your support for HB 3835 to create a more effective, equitable, and compassionate system for Oregon's children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Harnisch  
Executive Director, Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub

### **OUR MISSION:**

To convene, collaborate, and catalyze action in our hub region to better align services and resources for children and families.