

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

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

I am writing to express strong opposition to House Bill 3835.

The harms of seclusion and restraints have long been documented and identified by professionals as well as parents, family members, young adults and others who have suffered both short term injuries and long term psychological scars from direct and indirect exposure to these actions.

In a briefing published March 2010 by the US DHHS SAMHSA agency "Promoting Alternatives to the Use of Seclusion and Restraint: A National Strategy to Prevent Seclusion and Restraint in Behavioral Health Services" last viewed online at: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/topics/trauma_and_violence/seclusion-restraints-1.pdf points out that "The decision to apply seclusion or restraint techniques is often arbitrary, idiosyncratic, and generally avoidable (Haimowitz, Urff, & Huckshorn, 2006; NASMHPD, 2003; SAMHSA, 2003)." Further, "Studies have shown that psychological harm, physical injuries, and death can result from the use of seclusion and restraint to both the individual subjected to and staff applying these techniques (NASMHPD, 2009; Sailas & Fenton, 2000; Weiss et al., 1998)"

Our children need and deserve protection including especially children under the care of the state and its designees, particularly when it comes to seclusion and restraint. Reports from 2024 (e.g. <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/licensing/childrens-care-agencies/pages/sb710.aspx>) show it is still an ongoing issue.

I believe other solutions are possible to mitigate barriers of entry or retention for child-serving programs and professionals without reducing reporting, monitoring, investigation and accountability..

Please vote NO on HB 3835.

Thank you for your service.

Laura Misaras
Oregon Resident