

Submitter: BECKY OGDEN

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

I write to oppose these amendments to HB 3835 regarding Restraint and Seclusion practices.

Physical Restraint is a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his or her torso, arms, legs or head freely. Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. These interventions are dangerous and have led to serious injuries and even death in students, teachers and staff.

The practices of restraint and seclusion disproportionately impact children with disabilities, minorities, and boys. Often it is the youngest children that are most frequently secluded and restrained. The use of restraint and seclusion leads to significant trauma in students, teachers and staff.

There is no data to support the use of seclusion. In fact, seclusion leads to increased aggression and more frequent challenging behaviors. The United Nations has stated that the use of seclusion and restraint violate basic human rights. Source: <https://endseclusion.org/2019/09/01/about-seclusion-and-restraint>.

I oppose these amendments that will weaken protections against seclusion and restraints of vulnerable children.