

March 18, 2019

TO: Senator Rob Wagner, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
FR: Bob Joondeph and Chris Shank, Disability Rights Oregon  
RE: Support for SB 963

Disability Rights Oregon, the Protection and Advocacy agency for the state of Oregon. In that capacity, we represent children experiencing disability in school settings across the state.

SB 963 provides important clarification for educators and administrators regarding limited situations in which it would be necessary to engage in physical restraint of students in order to ensure safety for staff and students. We have worked closely with Oregon Education Association to carefully craft language that addresses concerns presented by educators and administrators while still protecting students from excessive physical interventions. The bill also prohibits use of numerous restraints that are potentially harmful to youth, and not in conformity with best practices.

We want to ensure that Oregon schools are safe environments for all students, educators and staff. When students feel safe, they are able to engage in learning. DRO continues to support initiatives that provide districts and educators with tools to understand the function behind behavior issues so students will be provided effective supports and learn skills needed to safely and successfully attend school.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SB 963,